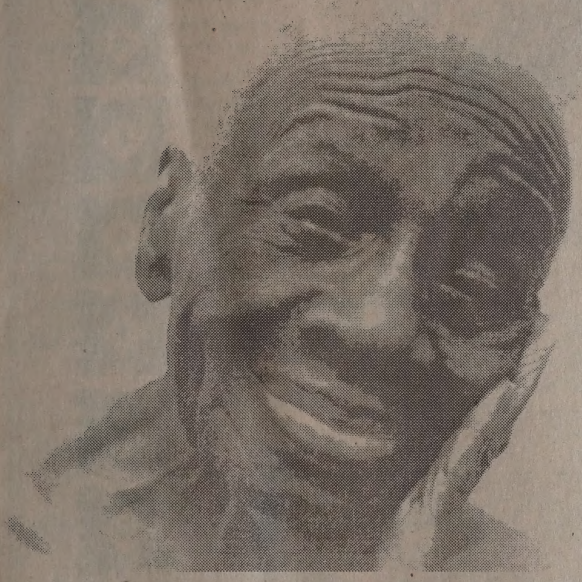
BLACK LINES

Aug. 1999, Vol. 4, No. 7 Free/$2 outside Chicago EXPRESSIONS FROM BLACK GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDERED LIFE



Ruth Ellis at 100

Chicago lesbian filmmaker Yvonne Welbon has worked long and hard on a documentary about African-American lesbian Ruth Ellis, who turns 100 this year. The film premieres Sat., Aug. 28 at the Black Harvest Film Fest, 4 p.m., School of the Art Institute. Call (312) 443-3734, and see page 23 for a report.

Chicago Black Pride

Pages 12-15 for dozens of photos from the many events around town.

ALSO INSIDE: Me'Shell Ndegéocelló and Karen Williams interviews.

Published by Lambda Publications, publishers of OUTLINES, NIGHTLINES, EN LA VIDA, OUT! GUIDE, CLOUT! AND TASTE

You can view BLACKLINES on the Web: www.outlineschicago.com

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BLACK LINES

August 1999
Volume 4, Number 7

BLACK*lines* Staff:

Managing Coordinator
La Jaunessee Jordan

Senior News Reporter
Robert Schultz

Photography Israel Wright, Brian McGee, Lynnell S. Long, R. Glanton

Art/Design:
Otis Richardson

Editorial Contributors:
Vicky Nabors, Janice Layne, Harry Tyner, Andrew Davis, Jon Dallas, Lynnell S. Long, Cain Berlinger, Kathleen Rose Winter, Preston Schumaker, Lester Davis, Shamara Riley, Jean Pierre Campbell, C.C. Carter, Sanford Gaylord, Charles Clifton, Dwayne Sanders, Vernita Gray, Rhonda Mundhank, J., Samantha Mattox, Byron Stewart, Sherri Jackson, Donna Rose, Patricia Mickey, Leslie D. McClellan.

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Lambda Publications Staff:
PUBLISHER & MANAGING EDITOR
Tracy Baim

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES
Terri S. Klinsky, Kathleen Ulm
Israel Wright, Daniel Finley, Robert Schultz

Editorial: D. Jean Albright
Administrative: Raven Rodriguez, John Pennycuff

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609
e-mail: **outlines@suba.com**

World Wide Web: outlineschicago.com

LAMBDA PUBLICATIONS,
1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D,
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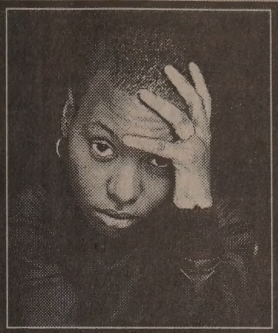

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BLACKlines
is on the World Wide Web:
http://www.suba.com/~outlines/

See page 23 for a preview of the Ruth Ellis film, and pages 12-15 for pics from BLACK PRIDE CHICAGO.

BLACKlines
DEADLINE is the 5th of each month for articles, calendar, photos, art, poetry, viewpoints, etc. Material used on a space-available basis.

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Editorial

by LaJaunessee Jordan

I've been an organ donor for as long as I've known about the organ donor program. When I signed up for the program, I thought about my grandmother who needed new corneas for her eyes. My organ donor consent stated that my corneas were to go to my grandmother, as well as any other organ that she might need. I've always felt that if I left here in a manner that allowed my organs to be beneficial to someone else, why have them incinerated with me?

Other than my grandmother who was an aging womon who was "falling apart," I never really imagined anyone else close to me being in need of an organ. I was slapped in the face with reality recently when I was informed that my daughter might need a heart transplant. But she is so young and has been so healthy. She thinks nothing of walking a mile. And now because of complications from a cold (they said the infection went to her heart and caused damage), she may now become a heart transplant candidate.

Many African-Americans are not organ donors. That presents a problem when we need transplants because we need tissue that is very similar to our own. That means Black folks generally need organs that come from other Black folks. And if we aren't giving up the organs then a lot of us are dying on the waiting list, clutching the beeper that would inform the recipient that they should get to the hospital as soon as possible because an organ has become available and time is of the essence—organs last a short time outside of a live body.

One reason I've heard some Black people say they will not donate organs is because of mistrust due to our history—example, the Tuskegee study. I've heard many Black folks say they're afraid that if they become organ donors that all may not be done to maintain their life or to resuscitate them or that they may even be killed for their organs.

Organ donation came out of the closet in the Black community recently, so to speak, when it was revealed that former Chicago Bears All-Star Walter Payton was in need of an organ transplant. Many more African-Americans inquired about and signed up for the organ donor program. Walter Payton set records on the field and, as a result of his failing health, he again was responsible for a record being set.

I heard a report that Payton is moving out of Illinois because we don't donate enough organs. The way the system works now is that organs are given to people within the state from which they are donated. There is now legislation to change that so that organs are given on a priority basis nationwide rather than locally. So then someone who lived in Illinois and was at the top of the donor list (one who would potentially have the most years ahead of them and a good quality of life) would be able to receive a matching organ from Minnesota, even though their residents donate more organs.

Does all of this sound confusing? What would make things easier? Sign up to be an organ donor and, as Michael Jordan says on the TV commercial, "**Tell Your Family**!" I stress this because if they don't know, they may reverse your decision. For many months prior to my friend Ardis Mc Bell's passing from metastatic breast cancer last year, she expressed many times that she wanted to donate her entire body to science to help with the treatment and cure of breast cancer. After she passed, her mother said, "Ardis would never donate her body to science!" and initially seemed to have thoughts of fighting it, although it was stated in Ardis' will.

One may become an organ donor in Illinois through the Department of Motor Vehicles. You can become a card carrying member by signing the back of your driver's license.

LETTERS

Dear BLACKLINES:

My name is Darryl. I'm a nineteen year old black gay male from the south side of Chicago. Friends call me Dantè. I'm writing this letter to let you know how much I enjoy your editorials. I've been out for about five years and your magazine has exposed me to a part of the gay life I didn't know about.

When I came out in my freshman year of high school, the only exposure to the life I had was the club scene. ... Slowly, but surely, I got tired of that scene. I wanted something more. I wondered, "Is this all that this lifestyle has to offer?" I asked myself, "Was the life only about writing bad checks and cutting each other?"

I told myself then, that maybe the older male would be better for me. Someone who was established and could be a role model. It's hard to find a role model when the person who you call your "role model" wants to have you. Life's a trip, isn't it?

I ran across your editorial in Cupid's a couple of months ago. Since then I haven't been able to put it down. I love to read about positive gay/bi/les/trans males and females. It was a breath of fresh air. To hear about groups like Affinity and ADODI CHICAGO made me realize that I wasn't alone.

At this stage in my life I can actually say that I am happy. I'm happy that I accepted my being gay and I don't care if anyone else does or doesn't. I want to help those who are struggling to come out. I want them to look at me and say, "There's a successful young gay male." Thank you for promoting positivity for gay males and females. Keep up the good work. — *Darryl Ellis, "Dantè"*

Dear Editor:

This letter is in regard to the Dyke March which took place on the Saturday of Pride Weekend. Although several hundred women attended this year's event, we hope that next year's march can be even better.

The Chicago Dyke March was called four years ago as an empowering gathering of queer women to celebrate our community(s). Unfortunately, it has not always been a space that has felt or reflected the diversity among us. Founded by the Lesbian Avengers, this event has been organized by primarily young, white, punk women. This pattern must not be repeated in the future. The composition of the Dyke March Planning Committee should include individuals and organizations from all facets of our communities of queer women.

With this in mind, all are encouraged to attend an open meeting Aug. 18, 7:30 p.m., 59 E Van Buren, 17th Floor, to begin the formation of a broad-based community coalition to plan Dyke March 2000. Call (312) 409-2753 or (312) 409-3705.

— Concerned Dykes for an Inclusive Dyke March 2000

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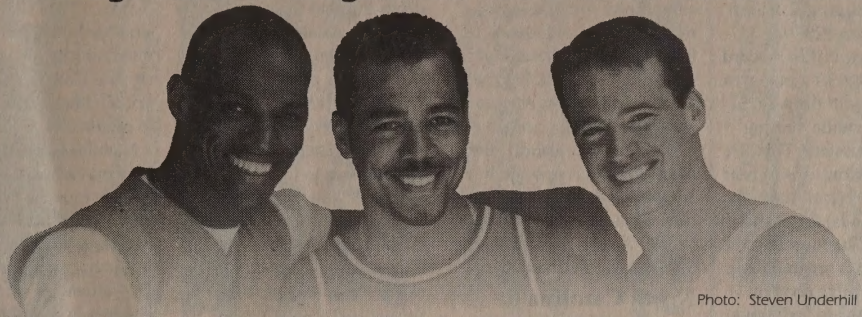

Photo: Steven Underhill

If you are an HIV-negative man who has sex with other men, you may be eligible for this study. Regular HIV testing and risk reduction counseling included.

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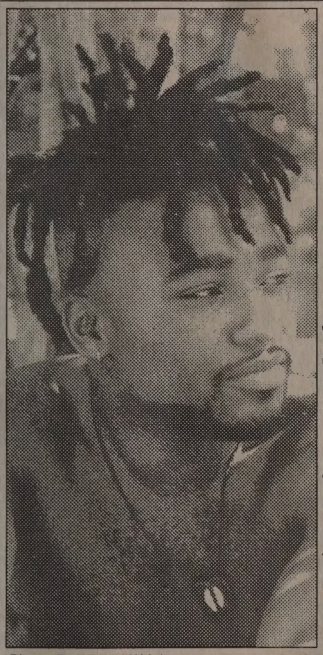


Photo By: Israel Wright

ADODI CHICAGO

A gathering for men of African Descent who love other men.

ADODI CHICAGO

WILL NOT MEET SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

Join our September meeting for a group dicscussion of the topic:

"Sexuality of the African American Man"

ADODI, is the plural of ***ADO***, a Yoruba word that describes a man who loves another man. More than just a description of partners, in Africa, the ***ADODI*** of the tribe were revered as shamans, sages and leaders.

For more information call **312-458-9584**

March on D.C. Town Hall Meeting

The March on Washington organizers are hosting a Town Meeting here in Chicago Monday night, Aug. 2 at Ann Sather's, 7 p.m., 929 W. Belmont. There is also a board meeting Aug. 2-3,9 a.m.-6 p.m. (first half hour of the Aug. 3 meeting is a public meeting open for discussion). This is a chance for Chicagoans to hear for themselves (and make up their own minds) about the controversies surrounding the march— who is organizing it, is it representative enough, is it too connected to "religious" issues, is it too corporate, how much are staff members paid, who will get mailing lists of attendees, who is getting March contracts, and what is the bidding process, etc. We found out about this meeting in a round-about way—does this mean they don't want the media to alert readers? Call the Human Rights Campaign (which has a staff person working on the project) at 202-628-4160 or see www.mmow.org for details.

Cleveland conference

As the queer rights movement leaps momentously into the 21st century, one midwestern community is just beginning to struggle with issues many lesbian and gay activist groups addressed decades ago. The African American lesbian and gay or Same Gender Loving (SGL) community in Cleveland finds itself re-creating the wheel of activism and community-building.

The impetus for activism among this silent double-minority in a less-than-progressive part of the country has been partially attributable to the alarming increase in new HIV cases among young African Americans. "We can't claim victory over the virus yet. The face of HIV and AIDS is steadily becoming' blacker' and 'browner,' and we have to challenge the [majority lesbian and gay] community not to lose its passion," said Larry Webb, BlackOut co-founder.

So what do you get when a community combines grass-roots activism with quasi-intellectual soul-searching? BlackOut Weekend. For the third year in a row, African American lesbians and gays in Cleveland will celebrate their unique position in both the African American and in the lesbian and gay communities, July 30-Aug. 1. Call 888-825-5226, blkout@hotmail.com

North Carolina's Black Pride Weekend

Unity Festival '99, the second of its kind in North Carolina, is set for Sept. 24-26 in Durham. The goal of this festival is to celebrate the existence of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender People of Color. Call (919) 873-3025.

South Africans protest Gore

About 300 demonstrators picketed the U.S. Consulate in Johannesburg, South Africa, July 5, in protest against Vice President Al Gore's alleged efforts to limit the nation's access to cheap AIDS drugs.

They carried signs reading, "Gore Greed Kills" and "Stop U.S. Bullying of Poor Countries."

Citing international law, South Africa passed a law in 1997—which Gore and some 40 drug manufacturers have opposed—that lets the nation produce AIDS medicines generically (compulsory licensing) and buy them from countries where they are sold cheaply (parallel importing).

"The American government is simply acting as a mouthpiece for the large pharmaceutical corporations," said Morna Cornell, one of the protesters. "They're scared [that] Americans who pay so much for their medicines will turn around and say, 'Hey, it's cheaper over there.'"

Gore has said he does not oppose South Africa's efforts to make or import cheap AIDS drugs but that the country must not violate patent rights or international trade agreements in the process.

In an effort to appease activists, Gore in late July said the White House would seek $100 million to fight AIDS in Africa. At a news conference with South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Gore released a report that called the spread of AIDS throughout sub-Saharan Africa "one of the largest health crises in the history of the world," Reuters reported.

Namibian court grants partner rights

Namibia's high court ruled June 25 that gay couples have the same rights as heterosexual couples.

Judge Harold Levy's decision came in the case of German lesbian Liz Frank who was fighting to stay in Namibia with her Namibian lover, Elizabeth Khaxas.

"Not only is this relationship recognized, but the [government] should have taken it into account," Levy ruled. "I have no hesitation in saying that the long-term relationship between the applicants in so far as it is a universal partnership, is recognized by law."

The ruling is seen as a major victory for the nation's nascent gay-rights movement, which has been aggressively denounced by government officials and President Sam Nujoma.

In May, Deputy Home Affairs Minister Jeremiah Nambinga said: "Homosexuality is evil, homosexuality is anti-social and should not only be condemned but should also be legislated against. Homosexuals are patients of psychological and biological deviations."

Last November, Home Affairs Minister Jerry Ekandjo told parliament: "Gay rights can never qualify as human rights. ... They should be classified as human wrongs which must rank as sin against society and God. I earnestly call upon homosexuals in Namibia to repent their wrongs."

Namibian President Sam Nujoma has said: "Homosexuals must be condemned and rejected in our society. All necessary steps must be taken to combat all influences that are influencing us and our children in a negative way."

Kenyans and So. Africans lose ground

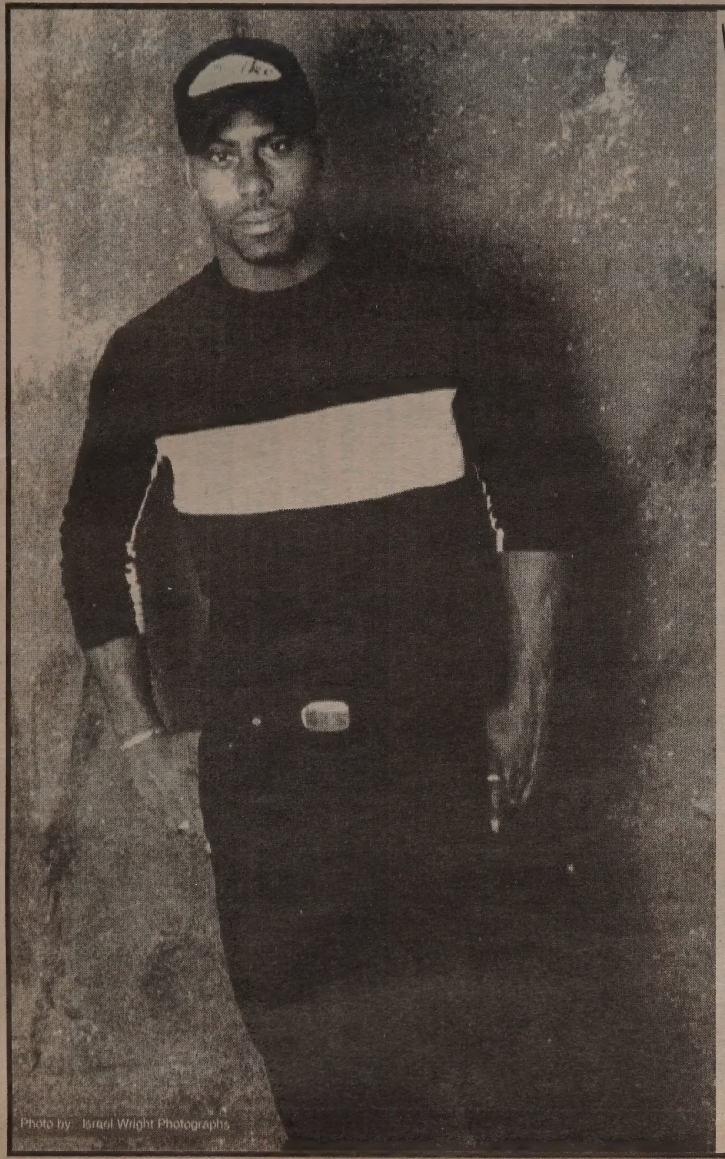
XINHUA news reported that the United Nations predicts a 17-year loss in life expectancy for Kenyans by the year 2010 as a result of the spread of AIDS. The United Nations 1999 Human Development Report said that due to the epidemic, life expectancy in developing countries is expected to go down to 47 years by the year 2010, back to what it was in the 1960s.

The life expectancy of the average South African is expected to drop from 60 to 40 years by 2008 as a result of AIDS mortality, the Dept. of Welfare and Population Development said, reports XINHUA news. More than 3-1/2 million South Africans are already infected with HIV.

"Over the next three years, the annual death toll could be 250,000, leaving behind almost 600,000 orphans," the department said.

Internat'l AIDS conf. in Africa

The XIII International AIDS Conference web site is up and running, www.aids2000.com/. The event is in Durban, South Africa July 9-14, 2000.



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CALENDAR

Wed., July 28

Guild Complex's 10th Anniversary Celebration Ten Pak V featuring performance by Donna Blue Lachman; music by Paulinho Garcia; visual art by Raul Ortiz Bonilla 7:30pm 1543 W. Division (773) 296-1268 ex. 26

StarGaze Lilith Fair Party featuring lesbian singer Ellen Rosner w/Ripley Caine & Yvonne Doll. 8-10pm Raffling front row Lilith Fair tix, original autographed artwork by Sarah McLachlan, CD's Tees, hats & more! 5419 N. Clark. Sponsored by Outlines, LesBiGay Radio, World Music Theatre, Universal, EMI, Nettwerk, Sony & Ann Sather. Kathleen (773) 871-7610.

Thursday, July 29

Cocktail Outlines/Nightlines host a "Trick" party 8-10pm. 3359 N. Halsted Win "Trick" prizes incl. tix to advance special showing Aug. 5 @ Pipers Alley. (773) 477-1420

Hot House presents Kahil El Zabar, Billy Bang and Hamiet Bluiett 8pm 31 E. Balbo, Chgo

Friday, July 30

Affinity "It's a Play Thang" 7pm" 5650 S. Woodlawn (773) 324-0377

Hot House presents Sam Mangwana 9:30pm 31 E. Balbo, Chgo

New World Music Theatre Cher w/ Cyndi Lauper. (312) 559-1212.

Newberry Library hosts "Speak Your Mind" Bughouse Square Debates 6-8pm and Sat. Jul. 31 1-5pm at Washington Square Park, across street from the Newberry Library 60 W. Walton (312) 943-9090.

Roseland Community Hospital Auxiliary hosts its First Annual Golf Outing at Green Garden Country Club in Frankfurt. More info or to register call (773) 995-3013.

Star Plaza Theatre Smokey Robinson I-65 & U.S. 30, Merrillville, Ind. for TIX (773) 734-7266.

Sundance Channel presents *Basquiat* 2:05pm. Discovered while a graffiti artist in NY's East Village, Basquiat skyrockets across the 80's art scene getting caught up in the temptation of celebrity, falling prey to bad love & bad drugs.

Saturday, July 31

42nd Venetian Night "A Tribute to the 20th Century" showcasing culture, arts & sciences of the last 100 years. A dramatic air/sea rescue by Chgo Fire Dept. at Queen's landing 7:45pm. The Lima Lima Flight Team will do a fly-over to kick off boat parade at 8:30pm with spectacular fireworks show at 9:30pm. More info call (312) 744-3370 TTY (312) 744-2964

Chicago Neighborhood Tours Near South Side/Prairie Avenue Historic District. (312) 742-1190.

Chicago Summer Dance Grant Park Spirit of Music Garden Free public dance lessons & live music (312) 742-4007 Speak Easy Swing Joe Gerrits & Joey Honsa instructors for the Stroll

DuSable Museum hosts Jazz Fest 99 thru Aug. 1 noon-8:30pm at South Shore Cultural Center 69th St. & South Shore Drive (773) 947-0600

Gay & Lesbian Building Trade Professions & Chicago Professional Networking Assoc. 4th Summer Cruise on Lake Michigan for Venetian Night Fire Works. Info 773-409-1886

The Human Rights Campaign "The Next 100 Years: What Will Our Legacy Be?" Black Tie Dinner Dance w/ full orchestra, dinner & drinks. Tipper Gore keynote speaker w/Elizabeth Birch, HRC Exec. Dir. and Kristen Johnston of NBC's *Third Rock from the Sun* at Hyatt Regency Hotel Grand Ballroom, 151 E. Wacker Dr. HRC Hotline (312) 683-5324 or (800) 494-8497 for reservations.

Kindred Hearts Women's Center "Breaking Up" - an open discussion w/resources. 2214 Ridge, Evanston (847) 604-0913.

Last House on the Block & Affinity holding a seminar on Building Healthy Relationships". (773) 683-7224

Lesbian Outdoor Group Camping/canoeing/hiking/biking, Wisconsin Camping at CK's (773) 274-5899 Gloria

OPALGA Midsummer Madness Party 23 Hawthorne Lane in Streamwood 8pm Cash bar open, bring snacks to pass. (630) 837-1678

Sunday, August 1

DuSable Museum 16th Neighborhood Festival in Abbott Park 10am-5pm, 49 E. 95th St. (773) 947-0600

Historic Pullman Foundation Visitor Center presents "Illinois Heroes and Heroines: Sung & Unsung" 3pm, 11141 S. Cottage Grove Ave. (773) 785-3828

Hot House presents Swedish Group Quarttango, 8pm, (312) 362-9707

OPALGA/BUNGALO picnic at Grove #3 on 26th between Des Plaines and 1st Ave. (708) 848-0273

Temptations hosts 4 Hour Gaming on the Grand Victoria Riverboat. Trans from Temps to leave at noon. Reservations needed. Call (847) 455-0008.

WACT (Womyn of All Colors/Cultures Together) Picnic. (773) 784-8922 or (773) 235-5847.

Monday, August 2

The Dusable Museum "Blue Monday, Part 3 - "Steady Workin': The Life & Times of a Blue Artist" 7pm, $3, 740 E. 56th Place (773) 947-0600

Human Rights Campaign "Millennium March Board Meeting" opens with a "Town Meeting" 9am-6pm @ Ann Sather's (773) 348-2378

Northwest CASA (Center Against Sexual Assault) 40 hour training classes for Advocacy Volunteers today, Aug. 3 &

Deborah Cox at Lilith Fair Aug. 19

Aug 5 6:30-9:30pm. (847) 806-6526 to register

Tuesday, August 3

23 District National Night Out: Walk Against Hate Crimes More info call Officer Perdue (312) 744-0064

House of Blues Joey McIntyre. 7:30p, $25. 329 N. Dearborn. (312) 527-2583.

Human Rights Campaign "Millennium March Board Meeting" 9am-6pm @ Ann Sather's. The first 30 minutes will be dedicated to questions, comments by the public. (773) 348-2378

Wednesday, August 4

6th Annual Gwendolyn Brooks Open Mic Poetry Awards 7:30 at the Guild Complex /Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division (773) 296-1268 ex. 26

Gay & Lesbian Advisory Group Meeting 7pm at 3600 N. Halsted in James O'Connor Community Room. More info call Officer Perdue (312) 744-0064

House of Blues Ray Charles 9pm $55 329 N. Dearborn. (312) 527-2583

Illinois Federation for Human Rights third Celebrity Pie Toss at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted 6pm (773) 477-7173.

Thursday, August 5

Affinity hosts Healthy Woman Nite 7pm, 5650 S. Woodlawn (773) 324-0377

Project Millennium "The Future of Cabrini Green: Residents Voice Their Vision" Cabrini Green residents describe their struggle to shape their community and plant their vision on Cabrini ground in a program sponsored by the Cabrini Green Local Advisory Council and the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs. 6:30pm at the Chicago Public Library's Near North Branch. Free (312) 663-0960.

Friday, August 6

Gerber/Hart Library Celluloid Outings film discussion. My Own Private Idaho. 7p, 1127 W. Granville. (773) 883-3003.

Girl bar Swing dance exhibition, lessons & competition, Rave dance exhibition & competition, & chance to win Cher tickets and Universal music CDs at pre-Dance for Life event. 8-10p, 2625 N. Halsted, for more info. (773) 871-7610. For Aug. 28 Dance for Life Tix call (773) 388-8997

Hot House presents Early Friday Outsets 6-8pm, 31 E. Balbo (312) 362-9707

Milwaukee Pridefest 99 W. Maier Festival Park along Milwaukee's Lakefront thru Aug. 8. Party, fireworks, parade on Sunday. Entertainment by Les Lockey, Kathy Sledge & Men Out Loud. More info (414) 272-3378.

Shoot-the-Bull Registration Party 4-8pm th the United Center (Registration deadline July 21) (630) GO-BULLS.

Star Plaza Theatre The Righteous Brothers I-65 & U.S. 30, Merrillville, Ind. for TIX (773) 734-7266.

Steamworks hosts the 4rth International Chest Man Convention thru Aug 8 3246 N. Halsted (773) 929-6080

Sundance Channel Premieres *Drylongso* by Cauleen Smith 9pm

Saturday, August 7

BEHIV "Healthier Men 2000 Discussion Group" for African American men 6:30-8pm Free meal served. 1648 W. Howard (773) 761-6214

Chicago Summer Dance Grant Park Spirit of Music Garden Free public dance lessons & live music (312) 742-4007 Chicago Cajun Aces (Cajun) Joan Letendre instructor

Hot House presents Sister Spit 7:30pm, 31 E. Balbo (312) 362-9707

Lambda Into The Woods III Lawn Party near Michigan City. (312) 663-4413

Sunday, August 8

Absolut Croquet X Tournament & Garden Party hosted by Open Hands Chicago 11am-4pm at the Clocktower on the Lakefront between Irving & Waveland. (773) 381-4382.

Rainbow Families Playing in the Park, meet at Indian Boundary Park, 11a-2p. (773) 388-1600, ext. 3313.

South Suburban Sisters Monthly meeting in Orland Pk 3-5pm (708) 460-8025.

Monday, August 9

Project Vida Young men's program. Free HIV/AIDS support group for men ages 15-24, 6-8pm. More info call Carlos or Ricky (312) 458-0877

Sundance Channel presents *The Watermelon Woman* directed by Cheryl Dunye playing herself as an aspiring lesbian filmmaker researching the life of and obscure black starlet from the 1930's. Co-starring Genevieve Turner of the indie hit *Go Fish* 11pm

Tuesday, August 10

Breathe - Emerging Poets & Musicians Open Mic & Jam Sessions featuring Spazztet 9:30pm at the Guild Complex /Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division (773) 296-1268 ex. 26

Michigan Women's Music Festival through the 15th. (616) 757-4766 or www.michfest.com.

Review Bi & Gay Married Men's Group First Annual Summer Feast @ Gale House, 124 N. Kenilworth ave., Oak Pk (630) 627-1990

Women & Children First Women's Book Discussion on *White Weddings: Romancing Heterosexuality in Popular Culture* by Chrys Ingraham. 7:30pm 5233 N. Clark (773) 769-9299

Wed., August 11

10th National Poetry Slam Championship Thru Aug. 14. Please call (773) 296-1268 ex. 26 for locations of preliminary, semi-final and final competitions.

Thurs., August 12

Affinity hosts Lez Chat-"Lesbian

more detailed calendar listings in Nightlines, and online www.outlineschicago.com

He said *that* ... Chris Rock on gays

Comic Chris Rock, the modern Lenny Bruce, has a new special out on HBO. While his raw and in-your-face style is not for the weak-hearted, his humor cuts to the heart of the issue. He even had a bit on gays, saying "Stop this homophobic shit. ... Every last one of you has a gay cousin. You knew he was gay when he was 10, he just didn't have anybody to be gay with. ... It don't make sense to hate nobody—whoever you hate will end up within your family. You don't like gays ... you're gonna have a gay son." On gays in the military: "Let 'em go, cuz I'm not." Since the average Black man lives til 64, because of hypertension, NYPD, etc., he says Black folks should get their social security at age 29.

Friendships: We Mean Friendships" 7pm, 5650 S. Woodlawn (773) 324-0377

Anti-Handgun Violence Walk More info call Officer Perdue (312) 744-0064

Camp Trans 99 Thru Aug. 15. More info www.camptrans.com.

National Poetry Slam HISS! All female open mic hosted by Judy Baker & Lola Huston 12-2:15pm @ Myopic Books, 1726 W. Division (773) 862-4882. Latin American Showcase 1:30-3pm @ Subterranean Cafe, 2011 W. North (773) 278-6600. Hiphop open mic hosted by Anacron 3:30-6pm 1531 N. Damen.

Friday, August 13

Chicago Pride Invitational Bowling Tournament and Scratch Masters host @ Waveland Bowl sponsored in part by United Airlines benefiting local AIDS related and Women's health and cancer programs. (312) 409-3993

Chicago Summer Dance Grant Park Spirit of Music Garden. Free public dance lessons & live music (312) 742-4007 Malik's Ultimate Band (Motown, Rhythm & Blues) Valerie Love instructor Steppin'

The Facets Cinèmathèque presents Chgo Premiere of *The Trio*, a multisexual comedy of errors from German director Hermine Huntgeburth. thru Aug 26. For times & tix info (773) 281-4114.

Gay & Lesbian Showcase Part of the National Poetry Slam. A show dedicated to the best of homo/bi/pan sexual views, ranging from the erotic to the political. 2:30-4pm hosted by Lisa Hemminger & Naom Paco Gastor @ Myopic Books, 1726 W. Division (773) 862-4882.

Guild Complex /Chopin Theatre presents "Verbs & Vibes" hosted by Mario 10:30pm, 1543 W. Division (773) 296-1268 ex. 26

International Gay Rodeo Assoc (IGBA) Greater Motown Rodeo (Detroit, Michigan), thru Aug 15, (313) 438-1305. IGRA (303) 832-4472.

Little Theater hosts benefit performance for DuPage Questioning Youth Center featuring John McGivern. 8pm on campus of Naperville Central H.S., 440 W. Aurora in Naperville (630) 415-2053

National Poetry Slam African-American Showcase 12-1:30pm @ Subterranean Cafe, 2011 W. North (773) 278-6600. GRUNT! All Male Open Mic 12-2:30pm hosted by John Biederman & David Rubin @ Myopic Books, 1726 W. Division (773) 862-4882. Sports Poetry Reading 1-2:30pm hosted by Bob Chico @ the Wicker Park Softball Field. Verbs & Vibes 10:30pm hosted by Mario @ Chopin 1543 Division (773) 278-1500.

Saturday, August 14

18th Annual Northalsted Marketdays Sat & Sun, Halsted between Belmont and Addison, 250,000 expected from around U.S. 375 vendors, dozens of musicians. 10a-9p. (773) 868-3010.

Bud Biliken Parade Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays is organizing a contingent of Black LGBT groups, organizations and businesses. (312) 409-4917.

Chicago Neighborhood Tours Uptown. (312) 742-1190.

Star Plaza Theatre Patti La Belle I-65 & U.S. 30, Merrillville, (773) 734-7266.

Sunday, August 15

8th Step Out to Stop Abuse 10k Walk 10am Grant Park (773) 489-9081

18th Annual Northalsted Marketdays Sat & Sun, Halsted between Belmont and Addison, 10a-9p. (773) 868-3010.

Girl Bar presents "Una Noche Loca". OUTLINES, EN LA VIDA & Amigas Latinas host a Latina Fashion Show 7:30pm 2625 N. Halsted (773) 871-4210.

News & Letters Committees Library presents "Queer Notions", Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgendered Liberation and the Idea of Freedom w/speaker Jan Kolhwitz, feminist activist & writer. 6:30pm, 59 E. Van Buren, Room #707 (312) 663-0839

BUD BILIKEN PARADE Aug. 14

Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays is organizing a contingent of Black LGBT groups and businesses to march in the 70th annual Bud Biliken Parade on Sat., Aug. 14. The tradition of Chicago's Black LGBT community participation in the event dates to 1993 when the Ad-Hoc Committee of Black Lesbians and Gays successfully fought for inclusion in the parade. CBLG has organized the participation for the past few years. The parade begins in Chicago's Bronzeville, a historical community for Blacks, and travels south on Martin Luther King Drive from 38th to Washington Park. Call (312) 409-4917. There will be a motorized vehicle to help those who can't walk the entire route.

Wednesday, August 18

Dyke March Coalition Meeting to form an inclusive Dyke March 2000 planning committee 7:30pm 59 E. Van Buren, 17th Flr. More info call Lesbian Avengers (312) 409-3705; (312) 409-2753

Star Plaza Theatre Donna Summer I-65 & U.S. 30, Merrillville, (773) 734-7266.

Thursday, August 19

World Music Theatre 1999 Lilith Fair, includes Sarah McLachlan, Sheryl Crow, Deborah Cox, Dixie Chicks and Indigo Girls. (312) 559-1212.

Friday, August 20

American Psychological Association 107th Annual Convention thru August 24, keynote address by Rev. Jessie L. Jackson, president of National Rainbow Coalition, (202) 336-5700

Saturday, August 21

Sundance Channel presents *The Watermelon Woman* directed by Cheryl Dunye 10:30pm

Tuesday, August 24

Women & Children First Fat Women's Health: A Celebratory Panel Discussion. Issues to be discussed include discrimination in healthcare, how to advocate for better treatment and what we do and don't know about the health risks of being overweight. by the LCCP. 7:30pm 5233 N. Clark (773) 769-9299

Thursday, August 26

Affinity Volunteer Orientation 6:30pm, 5650 S. Woodlawn (773) 324-0377

HARAMBE JAHARD

R U READY 4 the Summer?

A Discussion Group for Suburban Black Gay Men

NEW DATE!

Meetings on the 2nd Friday of each month!!

1145 Westgate #210, Oak Park

Call for info: 708-492-2055

Facilitated by Preston L. Shumaker

Cruising

because we care

Please join the

Lesbian Community Cancer Project

for their 4th annual jazz brunch cruise

Sunday, August 29th

11:45 to 2:00pm

aboard the Odyssey at Navy Pier

TICKET LEVELS

Friend ($90 for one ticket)

Supporter ($250 for 2 tickets, a listing in the program book, and 2 LCCP enamel pins)

Benefactor ($500 for 2 tickets, a premiere listing in the program book and 2 LCCP enamel pins)

For more information call 773-561-4662

American Airlines · LCCP · Out & Black Lines · Subaru

ArtsExpress

***** Gayles/bi/queer/trans content or interest*

Theatre

****** *July 29:* Taint** this month: *Last Frango in Paris*. Featuring Victor Salvo and Richard Knight, of SambaBamba. Scandalous comedy, demented take on dinner theater phenomenon. Owners of the theater depicted haven't paid for rights to shows and now write their own musicals. Chef Janois prepares a real 3-course meal served by cast to the real audience while racing on and off stage. One night only. One show a month, Aug 26, Sept 30, Oct 28, each with a new cuisine 3747 N. Clark. Call Victor at AMS 773 281-3878 or Annoyance at 773 929-6200

****** *July 29:* Love, Janis** Songs, letters, soul of Janis Joplin, 312 944-3123.

****** *July 30:* Scent of Rain**, by Mark Dunn. A dying father's wish is to see his three sons all happily married, and while the oldest brothers are happily engaged to women, his 'special' son has no one. So Pa and brothers all set out to seduce and win a man wonderful enough to be their baby brother's husband. Directed by David Zak, features Todd Keith, Tyler Michael, Nicholas D. Conlon, David Davita and Mark Anthony Donais. Bailiwick 773 883-1090

****** *Aug 5:* Where Men are Empty Overcoats** comedy of definitions, who we are, to ourselves, to the world. Fifteen year old tells the tale as her twenty-five year old brother comes out of the closet to the very white-bread, middle class parents on Thanksgiving. Shock turns to denial, relationships are redefined, bonds are strengthened. A portion of opening night will benefit Season of Concern, the theater community's fundraising effort in the fight against AIDS. Theatre Bldg, 1225 W Belmont 773 327-5252

***Aug 7:* Moma Thinks We Are Slaves** by Juanita Norman and Cynthia Maddox-J. A mother, like most, tying to install in kids the importance of education and urgency of knowing ancestry. Only thru Aug 8, 3pm. Harold Washington Library Auditorium 773 994-5224 or 773 277-4400400 S Sate Street

***Aug 11:* Train is comin'** local playwright McKinley Johnson's beautiful a a cappella musical celebration of endurance and triumph, r set in 1800's based on inspirational true story o the founding member of that Fisk Jubilee Singers of Fish U. on of the first African–American institutions of higher lear ing. Faced with the financially troubled school,;'s imminent extinction, a student choir of former slavs embark on a US> tour to raise funds amid racial prejudice, and public and private dilemmas, but with are sounding spirit that carries them all the day to europe and worldwide acclaim. Winner of four Black theater Alliance awards, including st musical. Lifeline, Aug 4-8 Chicago Park

Dance For Life is Aug. 28.

District's Theater on the Lake Thru Aug 15, 312 742-7994

***Aug 12:* Marked Tree** A couple's love, with the world bent against them. Amanda runs from her violent father, finds sanctuary with a man in Marked Tree, Ark. Arthur's the youngest of son a hardened tyrant who can no longer work the farm himself and, believing that his son lacks he qualities to run it, hires her "protector," who takes Arthur home, drunk, and leaves him with Amanda. Though drunken passion does not immediately lead to love, they slowly develop deep feelings, share their dreams and fears and talk of running way. Both fathers learn of their love and the protector's dark past begins to catch up with him. After a long night and a missed chance, she's dead and Arthur's in jail. Based true stories in 1913-15 Arkansas. Seanachai Th Co Thtre Bldg thru Sept 19. 773 327-5252

In Performance

All Night Strut about a time, music uniquely American. Americana beyond nostalgia to musical melting pot of blues, swing, jazz, gospel, pop, to funky jive, late night jam sessions of a sophisticated cafe society whose language was still an art form. Comaradarie against background of Great Depression, World War II thru Aug 29. Drury Lane, 2500 W. 95th St., 708 422-0042

****** Breathe** Gay and lesbian vignettes: executive meets The Goddess in a sales meeting: a young girl dreams of the woman she will marry; a priest seeks healing; an old man and woman sit enjoying friendship; a young man strives to reach the father who has left him; a grandmother watches her grandson's gay poetry slam. Extended thru Aug 29. Part of Pride '99. Bailiwick 773 883-1090

****** Damage & Desire** A pair of lesbian sisters, their literary magazine and a piece of fiction which transforms them. Features Lisa Duncan, Deborah Leydis, Robert Hungerford. Bailiwick, 1229.W Belmont. Pride Series thru Aug 22. 773 883-1090

****** The Dying Gaul** modern Faustian fable follows struggling writer who sells out his dead lover by selling the screen play of their love story and battle with AIDS with one small change. Under pressure he rewrites the dying lover as a woman. The lure of money, world wide web of instant messages, assumed identities and his inability to communicate leave him vulnerable and ultimately lead to betrayal.Thru Aug 1, Apple Tree Thtr Highland Park, 847 432-8223

Great Britain Salute to great music of Britain, featuring guest composer Giles Swayne's *Missa Tiburtina*, a marriage of English, African sensibilities. College of DuPage 630 942-4000

****** Homme Fatale** rise and fall of porn's meteoric star Joey Stedano. Extended thru Aug 29, part of Bailiwick's Pride '99 Series. 773 883-1090

****** Late Nite Catechism** Chicago original widely acclaimed international hit now in its seventh year. Mary McHale stars as Sister. Interactive comedy Written by Vicki Quade & Maripat Donovan. Directed by Marc Silvia. Ivanhoe, 750 W. Wellington open run 773 975-7171

Langston's Lab Fifty years ago Langston Hughes taught at University of Chicago Laboratory School. Based upon material from Lab School archives, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Defender and letters between Hughes and his dear friends Arna Bontemps, interwoven with Hughes' poetry, music, created with fellow teacher, Bob Erickson. Jason Lee plays Langston. Court Thtr thru July 31 773 753-4472

Life Before Def Victor Cole's musical history of Black comedy from Moms Mabley to Pigmeat Markham to Red Foxx, directed by Jackie Taylor and Victor Cole, thru Aug 29. Black Ensemble Th 773 769-4451

Quentin T Do Amateur Night at De Apollo Twisted racial, sexual imagery in popular culture, films, histories, images, of Quentin Tarantino, his collaborators. Tells truth in black 'n' white tales-of-Hollywood stand-up. Reservations required. Great Beast, open run. 312 409-2876

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorrainne Hansberry, a play that changed American theater, directed by Rodrick Jean-Charle, thru July 30. Blackwell Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, 3956 S Langley 773 874-7884

See the Light, interactive theatrical production combining science, comedy theater. Dr. Susan Clark, fictional physicist at Museum of Science and Industry, as a teen had heart, head in basketball, flunking science, which would keep her from "the big game". Thanks to visits from Sir Isaac Newton, James Maxwell, Albert Einstein, she overcame her fear of science, entered into a life-long calling where even a basketball is more than just a basketball. Thru Sept. 5. Museum of Science and Industry 773 684-1414

****** Torch Song Trilogy** Harvey Fierstein's semi-autobiographical tribute to gay life in 70's and 80's New York centers on Arnold, a torch song-drag queen, Phoenix Ascending 773 477-7044

DANCE

***July 28:* A+B Improvisations,** Bob Eisen, Asimina Chremos, plus guest Frank Melconi's farewell performance: *The four last slurs—final Chicago insults for voice and instruments* will feature favorite Frank and gathering of guest artists. Part of 10th Annual Chance Dance Fest, Links Hall, 3435 N Sheffield, 773 281-0824

****** *Aug 6:* Dance for Life pre-event.** Swing lessons, exhibition. Garbor, 2625 N. Halsted, 8-10 p.m. Sponsored by Bacardi Limon, introduces Tropico, World Music Thtr and Universal Music. Dance for Life is Aug. 28 at Navy Pier's Skyline Stage, tix 773 388-8997

***Aug 14:* Joel Hall Dance Center** Performance from workshop featuring works from Chicago choreographers Angel Abcede, Kirby Reed, Nancy Teinowitz and Vanessa Truvillion. Only thru Aug 15. UIC, 773 293-0900

****** *Aug 28:* Dance for Life** Joffrey Ballet, Chicago; Hubbard Street Dance, Chicago; Trinity Irish Dance Co; Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago; River North Dance Co; and Melissa Thodos & Dancers. Leading up to midwest's largest dance-related AIDS fundraising event have been a series of programs, volunteer efforts involving hundreds, workshops, special performances, in-school programs, other special events which extend mission of Dance for Life beyond actual performance. SkyLine Stage, Navy Pier, Tix 773 388-8997

Art/Photo

African American Cultural Center Dell Washington, paintings. Henry Jones *On the Edge*, paintings to open Oct. 312 996-9549

Art Institute of Chicago The *Ordinary Made Extraordinary: African Textiles and Decorative Objects*, Thru Aug 1. 312 443-3600

The Dusable Museum of African American History *State of the Blues: The Living Legacy of the Delta* features 90 portraits, 35 documentary photos by fine arts photographer Jeff Dunas of Blues Highway, a heritage trail thru the American South, thru Sept 12. Also *Harold Washington In Office*, permanent exhibition, w/ composite office setting; memorabilia; personal, career effects. 740 E 56th Place 57th, Cottage Grove Ave Washington Park Call about *Dusable After Dark*, monthly networking affair with cultural appeal. Sundays are free. 773 947-0600

Illinois Artisans Shop *Ethnic Arts Bazaar* part of Project Millennium '99 acknowledging the theme Shaping Community by celebrating craft traditions of ethnic communities: Asian, European, Naive American, Afro-American. Artists include Selena Denry Awoleye, Afro-American character dolls; Alan Barbick, Meso-American petroglyph carvings; Paula Grill, Native American prayer feathers; Sharon De La Cruz, Asian quilt art, graphics. Aug 19. 20. 312 814-5321 James R Thompson Center

Museum of Contemporary Art *Identity Crisis* human figures show psychological states of mind as exploration of identity; eleven works show diverse approaches to self-identity/societal modes of interaction, socialization in various media. Artists Laylah Ali, Malick Sidibé: two perspectives on African, American history, now thru Nov 7. *Decades in Dialogue: Perspectives on the MCA Collection* aesthetic, conceptual developments in art since mid-century organized thematically: bizarre/fantastic imagery, materials/subjects of mass culture, techniques of layering in painting, repetition of forms, now thru Oct 31. *Examining Pictures*, provocative analysis of world contemporary painting; 58 artists including Laura Owens, Gary Hume, Richard Prince, in historical context showing links with earlier generations, such as Andy Warhol, Sigmar Polke, now thru Sept 19. *Apposite Opposites: Photography from the MCA Collection* exhibits rarely seen, focusing formalism, conceptualism, highlights ways artists have used the medium to focus on formal aspects of images, now thru Aug 1. *Roy Lichtenstein: Interiors* artist's major interior paintings of 90's, collages, sculpture, drawings, smaller Lichtenstein's paintings which are "quoted" in large interiors, Thru Oct 10. *Small Aggressions:* works on paper by Laylah Ali are the product of a generation of an African-Americans grown not under the weight of racial discrimination but in an age of mixed messages. Surreal figures are both stereotypes that have undergone different permutations, icons of a different way of looking at race, violence, Aug 14 thru Nov 7. 312 280-2660

Peace Museum *Women's Peace Initiatives: Transforming Communities* historic links between women's equality movement and movements against wars, nuclear weapons, racial discrimination and inequality. Honoring organizations that transform local, national, global communities thru non-violent means. Highlights Rigoberta Menchu, Aung San Suu Kyi, Women's International League of Peace and Freedom, Gwendolyn Brooks and Chicagoan Jane Addams, Ida B. Wells less famous women whose work goes unmentioned in history books. 312 440-1860.

Affinity

SERVING CHICAGO'S BLACK LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDERED WOMEN'S COMMUNITY

OUR FACES

OUR COMMUNITY

Photo by Rosalind Glanton

CREATING VISIBILITY

Thursday, August 5th: Healthy Woman Nite
"Taking Our Bodies into Our Own Hands:
A Gynecological and Breast Health Discussion"
with Jackie Anderson, Juanita Crespo, Vernita Gray of LCCP - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 12th: Lez Chat –
"Lesbian Friendships: *We Mean Friendships*" – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 21st: 40 Plus "Spirituality" – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 26th: New Volunteer Orientation – 6:30 p.m.

Friday, August 27th : "It's a Play Thang"
Join us for Videos, Games, Food, and Fun – 7:00 p.m.

All events located at

Affinity Community Services

5650 South Woodlawn
Chicago, Illinois 60637
(773) 324-0377
Email: affinity95@aol.com

Chicago's 1st Black Pride ... It Was Like An Umbrella Effect ...

by Lester Davis

Thank you Chicago Friends (Wendall Williams and Kenneth Pickens) for hosting Chicago's First Annual Black Pride Independence Day Weekend, July 1-5, 1999. Excellent job, because it was a huge success!!

A special thanks to all the other supporters of our official 1st Black Pride weekend. Hyatt Hotel helped house the children from out-of-town and provide space for receptions, cultural performances and workshops.

The Rails Entertainment Group on Friday night, July 2, had more than 1,500 people in total. The Prop House had long lines; which caused heavy traffic on North Elston Avenue. They had scheduled shuttle buses that took kids from the Hyatt University Inn to the club. Hey, good looking out for our guests Bernard, Eric and Kendall! This is what I call true hospitality!

A shout out to the Generator and Dana Powell for hosting Dajae, for singing hits like *Brighter Days* and her latest hit single, *Be With U* on Saturday night, July 3; which attracted kids from inside to the outside of the club. It was like Chicago's version of Atlanta Freak-nik. The children had camped outside of the club on their lawn chairs on the side-walks, cars and parking lot, gagging and clowning with one another. The cut was the Chicago Police did nothing but barricade the South Halsted area. They knew better than to fuck with the kids, OK!!

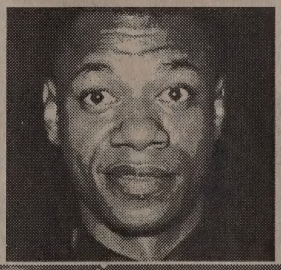
The Fu Fu Entertainment had a huge turn out at Planet Hollywood in spite of the hot conditions inside. To me it was the first, which offered flava to the weekend. Our sistas were even entertained by KC Productions with a party on the South Side, and Executive Sweet up north. Blakboyz Productions and Bla-tino helped relieve tension by celebrating the weekend festivities with several private safe-sex parties.

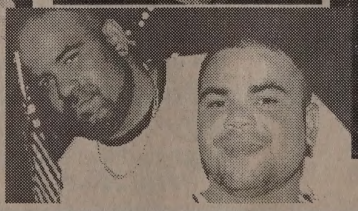
However, on July 4, there were thousands of gorgeous brothas and sistas who attended the Chicago Black Pride Festival picnic. Free food was available along with entertainment, vendors, local agencies and organizations ranging from women's groups to HIV/AIDS community awareness with free literature and volleyball. It was like an umbrella effect which brought the community together as one in that 90-degree hot sweaty weather, OK!

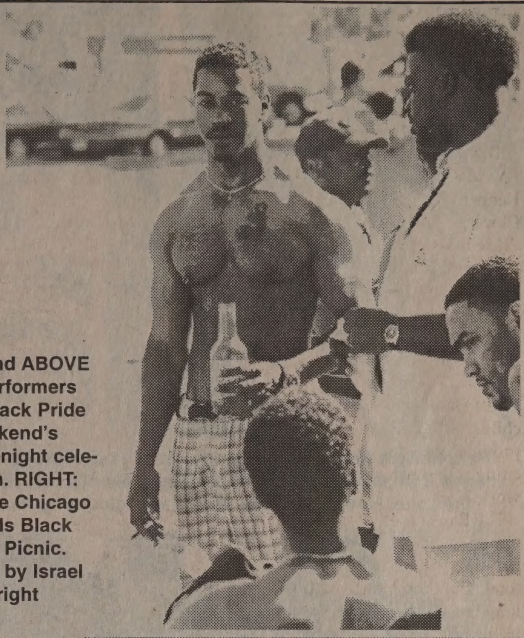
Later on that night, D/E Entertainment hosted Grammy Award winner, Godfather of House music, Frankie Knuckles at the House of Blues, which was another fuckin' ass fierce party.

To the Chicago children: never let anyone tell you that we cannot be unified together as one, because this proved to many others, and myself, that we can. Peace until we do this again in the new millennium, the year of 2000.

Amelia Black (LEFT) and Flame Monroe (RIGHT) enjoying the Generator during Black pride. All pics on this page from the Generator. Photos by Brian McGee



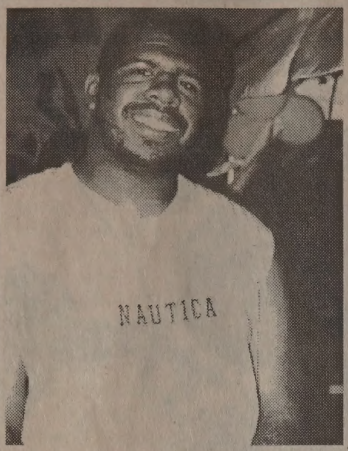


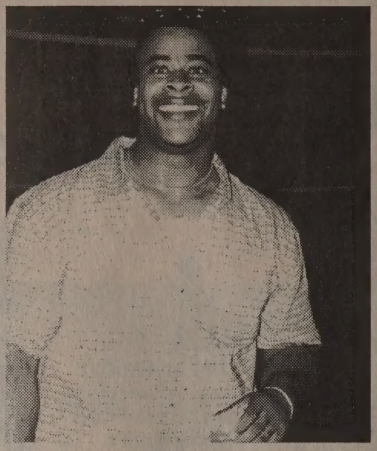


LEFT and ABOVE are performers from Black Pride Weekend's opening-night celebration. RIGHT: From the Chicago Friends Black Pride Picnic. Photos by Israel Wright

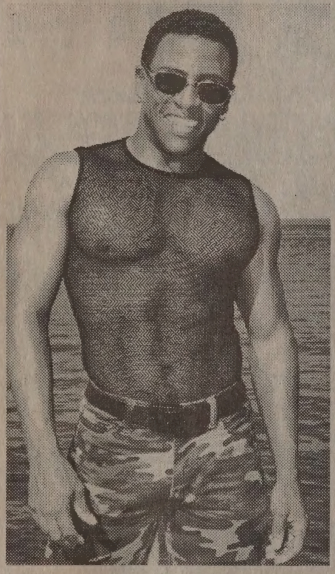
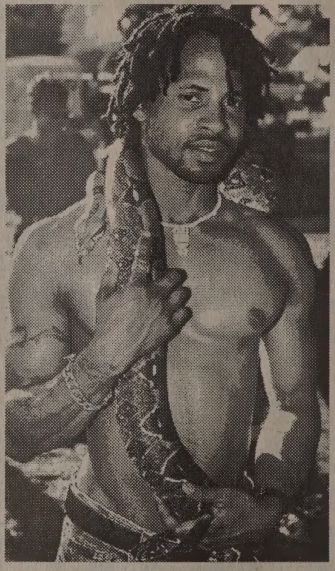
These three pics: Black Pride Weekend at the Generator. Photos by Brian McGee

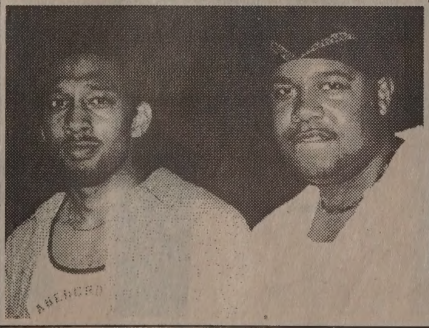
BELOW: Executive Sweet's Black Pride Weekend party. Photos by Israel Wright

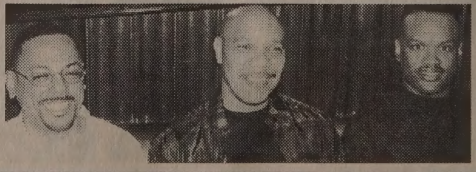




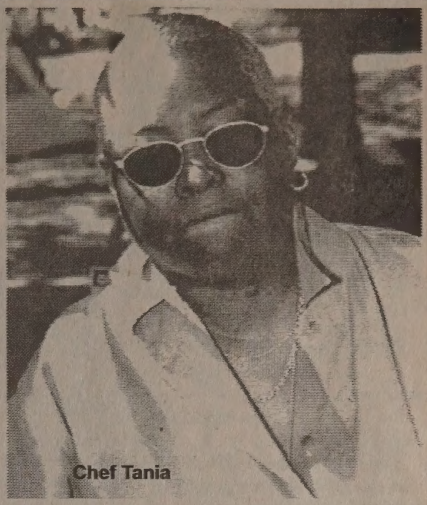
People were lined up around the block to get into the Rails Black Pride weekend events. Also on this page are images from more Black Pride Weekend events, including the FuFu Party at Planet Hollywood, Chicago Friends at the Lake, House of Blues, the Hyatt welcoming reception, and more. Photos by Israel Wright, Brian McGee

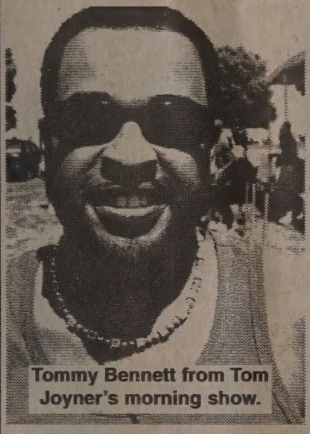




More pics from Chicago First Black Pride Weekend, held the July 4th weekend at dozens of locations around the city. Thousands of men and women participated, from around the city and around the U.S. These pics are from the Chicago Friends Black Pride Picnic. Photos by Israel Wright

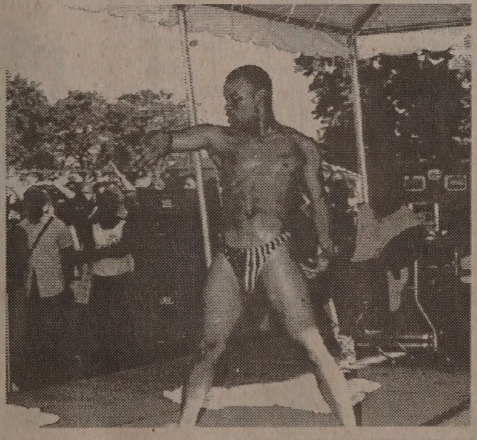


Chef Tania



Tommy Bennett from Tom Joyner's morning show.

Onyx men



Avery (below, right) and dancers entertained at the picnic.

Photos by OUTLINES and BLACKLINES photographers from Chicago's 30th Pride Parade. Above is the Affinity contingent.

From the Dyke March. Photo by Tracy Baim

Karen Williams Returns to Chicago Stage for Northalsted Market Days

by Robert Schultz

Lesbian comic Karen Williams isn't worried about the Y2K bug ruining her computer, instead for her the work of the new millennium is about "really healing the planet." Karen Williams' name and work is a staple in the lesbian community. The comedian will be a headliner at the Northalsted Market Days on Saturday, Aug. 14, 8 p.m. at Halsted and Belmont. People, the earth, the air, and animals could all benefit from the healing that Karen believes is the important work to accomplish over the next 10-15 years.

Williams is a writer who has been doing stand-up comedy for 16 years. "It all begins and ends with writing," said Karen. Since her start in the Oakland area's Black comedy circuit that existed in the early '80s, Karen has utilized humor because it's accessible. "Humor is a very important tool because humor is accessible to everyone. I don't want to say that everyone has a sense of humor. They should, but everyone does not. It certainly is accessible," she explained.

The accessibility of humor is one of the attributes of comedy that Karen savors. "I could have dreamed about being a famous musician or wanted to be a surgeon. A surgeon requires medical training at great expense. Even being a musician you have to have an instrument. But me, at a minimum, I need a pen and paper. To be honest, I could say to someone, 'You've got a pen?' or 'You've got paper?'" Williams said. "I could write on the back of a napkin or an airline ticket," she offered. "So basically my tools had to come from within."

Growing up poor but in a household rich with books, Karen surveyed her situation and surmised, "These are my assets: I have a gift of gab. I love stories. I do have a sense of humor. I have enough angst to push out there and make me stand up on stage and not run away in terror. I have a strong enough desire. I am in enough psychological pain that I got to talk to other people. And they're going to talk back. People still talk back when I'm on stage."

Karen Williams

Karen describes her style as being from the social commentary school of comedy. She does use narratives to help make her points but she admits that she's not a great teller of jokes. Using her knowledge of the lesbian and gay community, she is able to discern universal truths that makes her humor loved by all regardless of their sexual orientation. Operating from her home base of Cleveland, she's in demand all over. Karen has shared billings with Joan Rivers, Sandra Bernhard, Nell Carter, Marga Gomez, and Lea DeLaria. She has performed on Olivia Cruises and will being doing a gig in Amsterdam in August prior to her Chicago visit. For those who query, "Why make Cleveland home?" she explains that her management company is based out of that city and Cleveland has a strong legacy of comedy that includes Bob Hope, Steve Harvey, and Arsenio Hall.

Williams grew up in New York surrounded by books. Karen is one of seven children of self-educated immigrants from Barbados. She's a mother of two sons. A firm believer in the value books, Karen makes it a point to comment if she visits a home that lacks books. She still has many of the volumes from her childhood. A love of books also makes her "a good lesbian." She also wore out her copy of Audre Lorde's *Sister Outsider.*

Humor was always present in her family and Karen recalls the blue humor records that were ever present. Redd Foxx, Moms Mabley, and early Richard Pryor were the comics of choice in the Black community that were part of Karen's environment. Karen also acknowledges Jack Benny's influence on her style, particularly the use of the pause in a routine.

Karen has institutionalized her passion for the connection between healing and humor through her International Institute for Humor and Healing Arts (HaHa). A veteran of doing benefits for politicians and causes, she has also performed for AIDS benefits. It was while working with AIDS service providers that she developed her workshops on the power of humor. Karen's personal transformation allowed her to make the connection between humor and healing. Comedy helped Karen to heal emotional distress and the pain of daily struggles as a single mother. One of her most popular workshops is titled "Let's Laugh about Sex!" Another workshop is "Parenting with Humor: What A Concept."

Karen's humor has helped her cut through issues that present thorny dilemmas for other people. "Some days I'm completely helpless because I can't find my glasses. Whether I'm Black or gay has nothing to do with how my life is going to go on. These are aspects of self that I do not mean to minimize. One of my lines in my act is that I've gotten over being Black. I've gotten over being gay. But whose idea was this getting older shit? I'm more concerned with that now. This whole aging process is blowing my mind. I still want to be at the disco. I don't want to see you and me and the fellow disco folk slump. All of us sit around the table and tell about how we used to close the clubs. But we're so worn out after we tell the stories we have to go up to our hotel rooms at 10 o'clock and go to bed. That's the part that's blowing my mind."

"Some things are non-negotiable. A lot of times white people will ask what's more important, being gay or being Black?" relates Williams. "Well being poor at one time in my life dominated everything," she would respond to the question. She said she later realized that such a self-concept was a personal psyche job. "You work on yourself your whole life and then you die," Karen cracked.

Strutting With Pride in Gay New York

by Sherri Jackson

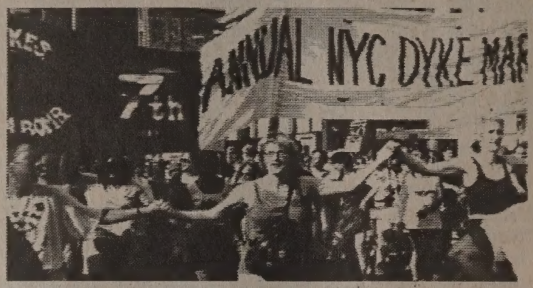
Pride is a sense of one's own dignity or value; self respect. Pleasure or satisfaction taken in achievement of a possession, or an association.

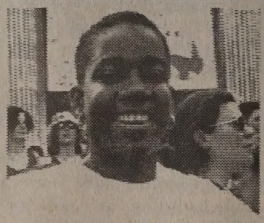
Each year, across cities and countries, millions of folks travel afár in celebration of this thing we call PRIDE. This is like a big holiday, celebration, or party to be Les/Bi/Gay/Trans, the proud folks we are and wish to be. We can embrace each other, sing, dance, cry, just be damn QUEER!

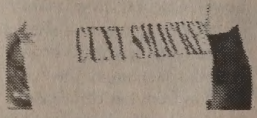
I decided this year to check out the Pride events in New York City, and possibly do some sightseeing. New York City is every creative artist's dream place. If you're looking to be discovered or just have a ball, New York is the place. For all you so-called party animals, it is going on! It is a city that does not sleep. It is also fun, but not cheap. So, Ladies and Gents, make sure you get the hook up on a place to stay. Because you will need lots of cash for taxis, trains, the many tantalizing dining spots, and you may even want to see the sun rise as you leave your party spot. While in this big city, don't forget to check out a Broadway show. You haven't seen a show until you experience it in New York.

Although I found New York to be a big, dirty city, it has a certain ambiance and essence that radiates. You feel it as you look into the many faces of the different ethnic groups and cultures. You can hear the many different dialects and languages being spoken as you stroll the streets. It also appears New York isn't as segregated as our city of Chicago. Everyone is meshed together. Such as one big melting pot. I wonder, can we do this here in the Windy City?

And yes, it is very Queer, Gay, whatever! You see same-gender-loving folks arm in arm. Gay coffee shops, eatery joints, bars: it's just so cool! I







Images from New York Pride, the Dyke March, and more. Photos by Sherri Jackson

really don't think this was due strictly to Pride either. I must visit this city more often because the women are HOT! "Yeah Baby!" And yes, all you men looking for a change, the men are fine also. Take your pick, Butch or Femme.

I had the opportunity to tour the Lesbian and Gay Center in New York, meet some staff and chit chat. The Center is now located in its temporary home at One LIttle W. 12th Street. The Center's permanent facility, at 208 W. 13th Street, is undergoing massive renovations and is expected to reopen in the fall of 2000. Speaking of support for the Center and parties: Folsom Street East, the Annual Leather/Fetish Block Party in the Meatpacking District, is sponsored by Gay Male S/M Activists and benefits the New York City Anti-Violence Project as well as the Center's Capital Campaign. For all you leather boys, it's no ordinary street fair.

Folsom Street East features performances by leather-clad musicians, local DJ's, and the

Imperial Court of New York, the Philanthropic Drag Organization that also calls the West Village home.

After my visit at the Center, I grabbed a taxi to the East Village, also called "Alphabet City," for dinner with Author Catherine E. McKinley. Catherine is a shy, soft-spoken woman with humor and no jive. She told me about her past writings. The first thing she ever had published was a chapter in *Black Women in America*, an historical encyclopedia edited by Darlene Clark-Hine. She has also done book reviews in MS. MAGAZINE, OUT, QUARTERLY BLACK REVIEW, PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY and ESSENCE. She also in the book *AFREKETE*, the first published collection of Black lesbian writings (Anchor Books, 1995).

She has also been published in *The Adoption Reader* edited by Susan Wadia-Ells, a collection of birth mothers and adoptive mothers published by Seal Press. Yes, Catherine is adopted. She told me this is a book about the relationships between the biological and adoptive moms. She also has a piece in *Anthology of Lesbians and Gay Fiction by African-American Writers*. Her story is titled "Afro Jew Fro" edited by Shawn Stewart Ruff. She is presently revising her memoirs called *The Book of Sarah's* due to come out this winter with William Morrow. It is about the process of searching for her biological family. She states, "It is kind of like a meditation on race and family." Catherine had a one-year relationship with her biological mother and later was contacted by her biological father. She has a half sister named Sarah and later discovered that her biological parents had another child four years older than Catherine also named Sarah. Catherine was named Sarah at birth as well. So we can see where her title comes from.

Catherine will take off for Ghana, Africa to live for one

year on a Fulbright Grant to do research on a historical novel about "Indigo," an ex-patriate who gets fed up with the USA and goes to Ghana to get involved in an arts school for women.

"Hey, I like that idea. " She says for people who truly wish to become writers, "You must learn the business. It takes talent, yes, but it is some of the hardest work if you are really doing it and a big part of the work is negotiating the industry and dealing with your work as intellectual property."

Saturday morning I had the opportunity to hang out with the publisher of VENUS MAGAZINE, Charlene Cothran. VENUS is a magazine for people of African descent in the "life." Charlene is this determined sister, warm, all about the business when it comes to the magazine. She also has quite a sense of humor. She had me in stitches.

I asked her what she liked about VENUS MAGAZINE. She said, "What's exciting and interesting is when a Black straight person gives me feedback on the fact that they picked up the magazine for a gay friend or co-worker." The friend or co-worker had no clue about the magazine. She states, "For me this is very far reaching, it's broader than what we possibly had envisioned for the magazine. It's nice to hear someone's momma picks up the magazine for their gay child, or gay nephew or niece. It lets me know the magazine is respectable and not about T and A's."

I asked her what she liked most about BLACKLINES, Charlene said, "I like the way BLACKLINES makes ties with the African-American community at large. It's not just about the Black gay community, but the magazine makes ties with the straight community. The magazine isn't all about who's coming to town, it is about building bridges."

She sees Cothran Publications unfolding on an international level. A magazine coming out of South Africa and other countries. She sees gays outside the U.S. as so progressive. "I would really like to see the magazine distributed more on an international level one day."

I dashed to the Annual Dyke March which started at Bryant Park and ended at Washington Square Park. There were an estimated 2,000 dykes on bikes, baton twirlers, drummers, leather babes, pagan goddess worshippers, and all other local lesbo legions for this affair. You Chicago dykes must check this out.

I had a late dinner with entertainer extraordinaire Kimberly "Q" Purnell. I had the pleasure of first meeting "Q" at the Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays Unity Conference this year. How could I forget her? She wore that black dress so well, ummm. Kimberly (who used to live in Chicago) is this

Kimberly "Q" Purnell

vibrant, radiant, smart, fun, straight-forward, cut-to-the-chase sister. And she is so lovely. "Q", as she is called (which stands for QUEER) is an actress, writer, producer, singer, dancer who won the 1998 Audelco Award for "Best Supporting Actress" and is currently working at producing her one-woman show, *The "Q"*.

I had the chance to catch her perform the next day while hanging out in Harlem in a play called *Days of a Drunken Crow* written and directed by Ajene D. Washington. She plays a character named Myra Wright who is actually dead but her spirit returns to accomplish the work that must be done to bring the other characters in the play together. The dynamics in the play between herself and Ajene, who plays James Morton, were so well connected, polished, spiritual and unbelievable. These two people felt so real together you felt yourself on stage with them.

"Q" tells me she doesn't get cast a lot for gay-subject-only plays. She is not sure why. As she was telling me this, I thought maybe it's that stereotype societal thing: "You don't look like a lesbian." We as gays stereotype our characters in roles or real life. "Q" will play a lesbian attorney in an upcoming play called *Guilty But Mentally Ill*. She is on death row for killing her lover. What transpires are three different incidents between three different women who are about to die. Sounds like some good drama. "Q" says: "My acting has nothing to do with my work in the LGBT community." She sees these things as two separate entities. She tells me she enjoys her acting and you see this in her eyes and feel the passion for it as she speaks.

Sunday was the 30th Annual Gay & Lesbian Pride March. More than 700,000 marchers and spectators took part in the world's largest annual pride celebration. The reviewing stand was located at Fifth Ave. and 25 St. where groups paused to put on their best for the judges. One of the judges this year was the beautiful, frequent visitor and speaker to Chicago, Dr. Marjorie Hill.

You must witness this Pride Parade at least once.

I really enjoyed myself while in New York. I hope we as LGBT people remember the true meaning of PRIDE. What this word truly stands for, not just one or two weeks a year but 365 days.

I hope we continue to play safe, support our community, each other and nourish our youth. While we party and have fun, let us not forget Stonewall, Black Pride events, Les/Gay/Bi/Trans rights, and the many struggles we have overcome, and will continue to overcome. The biggest right now being the rise in HATE CRIMES.

Pride will, hopefully, one day not be about the color of our skin, gender, class or disability. We will all be meshed together strutting with Pride as one right here in the Windy City.

I hope you all had a ball, because I sure did.

Controversy at New York Pride

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two Spirit and Transgender People of Color Communities have denounced the behavior of New York Mayor Giuliani, his NYPD security force, and his supporters during this year's Heritage of Pride March.

On Sunday, June 27, Mayor Giuliani and Fire Commissioner Max von Essen, accompanied by uniformed and undercover policemen, reportedly pushed their way into the 1,000-member People of Color contingent, recklessly endangering the safety of adult and child marchers. Log Cabin Republicans and FireFLAGS (a gay firefighters group) were also part of the Mayor's contingent. For 20 block, members of the People of Color contingent and their supporters were subjected to police harassment, physical assault and arrest, according to several POC groups.

flow ~ notes from the BLACKLINES Music Department

Hear Again

Tempting

by Jano

This year Motown Records released, on CD, three albums by the Temptations that were originally recorded in the 1960s.

Meet the Temptations, (1964), has the well-known song, "The Way You Do the Things You Do," on it. Eddie Kendrick's clear tenor voice and the flatly tuned snare drum define that doo-wop sound that people still try to duplicate today.

Gettin' Ready, (1966), is full of hits such as "Ain't Too Proud to Beg," "Get Ready" and "Too Busy Thinking About My Baby." If you are too young to know these songs by title, once you hear the tunes they will be much more familiar. Movies and television commercials have helped to keep these songs alive.

Temptations Live! is quite possibly the best of the bunch. In listening to it, you are witness to the magic that was Eddie Kendrick, David Ruffin, Melvin Franklin, Paul Douglas and Otis Williams. Live albums often separate the real singers from the fake. These young men were the epitome of talent meeting opportunity. To honestly appreciate the Temptations, look at them through the lens of time and realize they are still considered the standard bearer of singing groups. They were a first in a long line of firsts (that slowly grew longer because of the Civil Rights Movement). This album also lets you feel the energy of the audience and the appreciation the group had for *its* moment. "Girl (Why You Want to Make Me Blue)," "The Girl's Alright With Me" and "My Girl" are a few of the familiar songs on *Temptations Live!*

It is honestly hard to believe that entertainment was once that clean.

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West End Records has come up with a perfect summer gift: a CD with nine remastered classics from the legendary Paradise Garage. In the late '70s and into the '80s, The Garage, at 84 King St., was a dance magnet, and while the owner was Mel Cheren, much of the musical credit belonged to its resident DJ, Larry Levan. It's Levan's mixes that defined the scene, and that give *Larry Levan's Paradise Garage* its punch.

The Garage was open from 1976-87, and Levan was the DJ to the end—a peer of such hip-hop pioneers as Grandmaster Flash and Kool Herc and an influence on countless deejays who followed. Sadly, Levan died just a few years later, on Nov. 8, 1992, of a heart inflammation.

In other music news, Aretha Franklin sang the national anthem to open the Three Tenors show at Tiger Stadium July 17.

'bull-jean' available on CD

And the Lammy goes to ... writer sharon bridgforth and publisher Lisa Moore/RedBone Press for the *bull-jean stories*! The book that won the 1999 Lambda Literary Award for Best Small Press can now be heard on CD. bridgforth captivated and delighted Chicago's Black lesbian community when Affinity sponsored a reading by her earlier this year. "with the *bull-jean stories* i wanted to celebrate the rural/southern working-class Black bulldaggas/who were aunty-momma-sister-friend/pillars of the church always been a working part of the community/giving fierce Love with fineness," bridgforth said. "the songs of my childhood/the laughter/the gift of tale-telling/the food that my elders gave me are integral parts of who i am. though i can't dictate their particular words i do understand that the voice of the bull-jean stories belongs to them. these are the stories they didn't tell me the ones i needed most. bull- jean is the butch/southern/poet/warrior wo'mn hero i wish i'd known," bridgforth said.

sharon

The *bull-jean* CD was created because both bridgforth and Moore were often told what a difference was made in the enjoyment of *bull-jean* when heard aloud. "Bull-dagger stories beg to be heard aloud," was written in a review in SOUTHERN VOICE, a weekly publication. And the rest is history, as they say.

The *bull-jean* CD is a family affair. bridgforth reads (No! She performs), her daughter sings and Moore's father (who is a professional musician, usually playing the blues) plays guitar on the CD.

Many Chicagoans remember the Mountain Moving Coffeehouse Black Herstory presentation of the *bull-jean stories* performed by several well-known community members—C.C. Carter, Donna Rose, Rhonda Bedgood and on and on. "I'm still talking about and giggling about that performance," bridgforth told BLACKLINES. "I loved it!" she said.

Bridgforth is currently presenting *bull-jean* most of the time. However, she also does some residency work, presents workshops and has started the Institute for Radical Poets for young adults to help them find their voice and present themselves. She will be performing for two days at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival Acoustic Stage along with C.C. Carter.

Moore has changed her thesis to one related to the oral herstories of older Black lesbians. She is also working on a Black lesbian and gay religion and spirituality book as well as one on parents and friends of lesbians and gays.

The CD the *bull-jean stories* is only available through RedBone Press or at specific events. To order call RedBone Press at (512) 498-4997 or send checks or money orders to P.O. Box 1805 Austin, Texas 78767. CDs cost $12.99 and shipping is $3.20 (priority mail). — *LaJaunessee Jordan*

'Bitter' Suite: Singer Ndegéocello

by Gregg Shapiro

Anyone as fed up with the current state of female African-American vocalists as I am will find much to rejoice in with Me'Shell Ndegéocello's stunning new album *Bitter* (Maverick). Unlike many of her contemporaries, Ndegéocello has wisely steered clear of the cluttered production of people such as Rodney Jerkins, and has delivered a disc on which the vocals, the orchestration and the songs themselves take center stage. With nods to old school r&b ("Satisfy," "Loyalty") as well as new territory (lush yet stripped-down tracks such as "Faithful," "Beautiful"), Ndegéocello continues to carve out her own unique niche. "Wasted Time" and "Grace," the tracks that close the disc are also amazing in their elegant simplicity.

Gregg Shapiro: What lead you in the direction of the stark orchestral arrangements on *Bitter*?

Me'Shell Ndegéocello: (laughs) I don't know what lead me there. I've always been into strings. On the second record, I had a lot of orchestration. I'm one of those old school, Detroit r&b-loving people. I love incredible string arrangements, but I've noticed they only existed in other genres of music lately. I really had a feeling to do something beautiful and expressive in that way. I write pieces like, and this time I wasn't afraid to let them co-exist with the other music. That's how a lot of that came about.

GS: How will the orchestral sound play live at a venue such as Lilith Fair?

MN: It's difficult because I have to rearrange the music to fit the instrumentation that I have live. Certain songs come across because we approach it with the instrumentation that we have and sort of fill in those parts with other instruments like a volumed guitar or something like that. You just have to see it (laughs) to really understand. It comes alive in a nice way.

GS: Did you work with any of the same musicians on *Bitter* that you worked with on *Plantation Lullabies* and *Peace Beyond Passion*?

MN: There are only two people that I used on the new record. Craig (Street), the producer, and I wanted to have this collective thing where it was the same group of musicians on each song. We were like a band performing the songs. On drums is Abe Laboriel Jr. and on piano is Lisa Coleman, from Wendy & Lisa. She plays piano on the whole album. Wendy (Melvoin), who played on *Peace Beyond Passion*, plays bass and all the guitars on *Bitter*. Another guitarist, who is playing most of the acoustic and electric on this album is Doyle Bramhall.

GS: He has that new album *Jellycream* that just came out.

MN: Yeah. I'm like Doyle's biggest fan. I have him on the album and another guitar player from Chicago named Chris Bruce. I play bass and the string arranger is from Austin, Texas, and his name is Steven Barber. I have David Torn playing guitar, and Ronnie Drayton. That's pretty much the collective on the record. And my percussionist who played on *Peace Beyond Passion*, Daniel Sadownick, is featured on "Adam," the first track.

GS: You worked with David Gamson on your first two discs and you worked with Craig Street on *Bitter*. Why did you make the change in producers?

MN: I didn't want to change. David and I, if we would have had the chance to work it out, we would have continued, but the record company wasn't happy with him, didn't want him to produce, so they fired him. I had to make a change. I've known Craig for a very, very, very long time and I've always wanted to work with. That was my second choice. It was great to work with a new person, someone who had different ideas. This album was very different, so I think he was the perfect person. But David did produce the vocals on most of the tracks on this album. He just wants to remain in the shadows.

GS: *Bitter* is permeated with themes of betrayal. Were these songs written from an experience that you had with a lover?

MN: This whole album is about the last three years and the relationships I had during those years. And some from further back. I just wanted to write about love. Something that we all are struggling with. The common bond between us all is trying to find love in our life. That's what this album deals with.

GS: You have released this very lush, exquisite album in the middle of a dance remix craze ...

NM: (laughs) I was stupid to do that, wasn't I?

GS: Maybe not, because I was wondering if you see work with remixers on doing remixes of some of the tracks?

MN: No. Maverick, my record company wants to because they are "Hitsville, U.S.A.," but I'm not really into re-mixes and I don't think I'm going to OK any. We did have one literally re-mixed, re-engineered, by Chris Lord-Alge just to have a crisper sound. But that's probably as far as I'm going to go with this album. I hate re-mixes. I think they're the death of music. I can't really support it. You didn't remix Pink Floyd's *The Wall*, you didn't remix Stevie Wonder's *Innervisions* record. People write and create these albums, so who are these people to go and change it? If you don't like it the way it is, don't buy it.

GS: Very well put. All three of your albums have been released three years apart. Is that the standard time it takes for you to write and record?

MN: I never really thought about it until this album. I putter around. I take a good year off and don't write, and that's fine. I just write when I feel it. I don't see how people generate these albums once a year or every month. I'm not experiencing enough to write like that. I've got to go out and have a life and play with my friends or I'm on tour. I just write when I get the feeling.

GS: As an artist who records on Madonna's Maverick Records label, have you had much contact with Madonna?

MN: No, not really. Which is good. She's just the owner of the company. She sticks her head in when it's necessary. Guy Oseary runs the label and that's the bottom line.

GS: How did the Gap ads that you did a few years ago come about?

MN: I think my publicist heard that they were looking for people to do the ad and they just signed me up. I think I got it because Herb Ritts happened to be a fan. We got a long really well and I think that was definitely a foot in that door.

GS: How do you feel about Ricky Martin mania?

MN: Nah (laughs). I'm more into Jennifer Lopez mania.

GS: Since this interview is taking place during June, which is lesbian and gay pride month, I was wondering how a queer-identified artist such as yourself planned to celebrate?

MN: Probably just hang out with my girlfriend. We live in the (San Francisco) Bay Area and we go to San Francisco and have dinner and just celebrate.

Lilith Fair is Aug. 19 in Chicago at the New World Music Theatre, (708) 614-1616. While Me'Shell is performing at some Liliths, she is not scheduled to perform here.

Sundance Channel Acquires Rights to Cauleen Smith's Feature Film Debut, *Drylongso*

Part of August Film Festival "Representing Soul"

Sundance Channel (available on digital cable in the Chicago area) has acquired domestic pay rights to Cauleen Smith's feature film debut, the vibrant and naturalistic drama, *Drylongso*.

The film will make its world premiere on the Channel on Friday, Aug. 6, at 9 p.m., as part of Sundance Channel's month-long celebration of African and African-American filmmakers, "Represent Soul."

Drylongso was directed, produced and edited by Cauleen Smith, who co-wrote the screenplay with Sali Akil. It stars Toby Smith, April Barnett and Will Power.

"*Drylongso*" is a traditional African-American term meaning "ordinary" or "same old thing." The film follows the everyday life of Pica (Toby Smith), a bright, talented and strong-willed college photography student. Pica ignores the requirements of a 35mm class project, choosing instead to take hundreds of Polaroids of young African-American men, whom she sees as an endangered species. She meets and befriends Tobi (April Barnett), an affluent young woman who responds to her ex-boyfriend's physical abuse by disguising herself as a boy. Gradually, Pica's outlook on young men, violence and death grows deeper, a shift that is reflected in her photo project, which evolves into an installation that brings her neighborhood together.

For the second year in a row, Sundance Channel showcases African and African-American cinema with "Representing Soul," a mini-festival of films covering a diverse range of subjects, styles and viewpoints. In addition to *Drylongso*, the centerpiece of the festival, highlights include: a rare showing of Charles Burnett's seminal 1977 classic, *Killer of Sheep*; the television premieres of St. Clair Bourne's documentary *John Henrik Clarke: A great and Mighty Walk*, narrated by Wesley Snipes; Abderrahamane Sissako's millennial tale from Mali, *Life on Earth*; and Keenan Ivory Wayan's gleeful send-up of '70s blaxploitation, *I'm Gonna Git You Sucka*.

TOP: Tobi (April Barnett) and Pica (Toby Smith) in 'Drylongso.' MIDDLE: Toby Smith. BELOW: From 'I'm Gonna Git You Sucka,' airing Aug. 28.

Larry Greenberg, Director of Acquisitions for Showtime Networks Inc. and Sundance Channel, negotiated the deal with Neil Friedman at Menemsha Entertainment, on behalf of Cauleen Smith.

Tom Harbeck, Executive Vice President of Programming & Creative Director, notes that the acquisition of *Drylongso* is in keeping with the ultimate mission of Sundance Channel: "We're committed to supporting talented artists who have a fresh creative vision, and Cauleen Smith epitomizes that kind of filmmaker. *Drylongso* is a stand-out debut, one which audiences should have the opportunity to see."

Added Liz Manne, Senior Vice President of Programming & Creative Marketing for Sundance Channel, "Cauleen Smith has given us a very honest, empathetic and balanced look at a world that is often misinterpreted in contemporary movies. *Drylongso* is like a breath of fresh air, and we're very excited to present its world premiere on Sundance Channel." She added, "It is particularly exciting to see new works like Cauleen's airing side by side with a classic film like *Killer of Sheep*. Charles Burnett is, arguably, a master of African-American cinema and the independent film world in general. Sundance Channel is proud to give viewers a rare opportunity to see his work."

Sundance Channel (sundancechannel.com), under the creative direction of Robert Redford, brings television viewers nationwide the best of new independent features, as well as documentaries, shorts, animation and international cinema, running uncut and commercial free 24 hours a day. Sundance Channel is a venture among Robert Redford, Showtime Networks and PolyGram. Sundance Channel operates independently of the non-profit Sundance Institute and the Sundance Film Festival, but shares the Sundance mission of supporting independent artists (including many gays and lesbians) and providing them with wider opportunities to present their work to audiences.

Ruth Ellis at 100: Film Debuts in August

by LaJaunessee

Happy 100th Birthday to you! Happy 100th Birthday to you! Happy 100th Birthday Ruth Ellis! Happy 100th Birthday to you!

Black lesbian activist Ruth Ellis is now 100 and Chicago filmmaker Yvonne Welbon has created a film about her life, *Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100*. The Chicago premiere will be at the Black Harvest Film Festival at the Film Center at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago on Saturday, Aug. 28, 1999. There will be a second screening on the following day at the Film Center.

Ruth Ellis will be present at both screenings which are being co-sponsored by Gerber/Hart Library.

The film chronicles Ruth's life through interviews, memories of friends, photographs, archival footage and vivid dramatic recreations of her past.

Beja James plays Ruth Ellis, C.C. Carter is "Babe," Ruth's long-time love, and several members of A Real Read are in the film. Other locals that can be spotted in the film are Jackie Anderson, Vernita Gray, Janice Layne and LaJaunessee Jordan (yes, that's me).

The recreation scenes are shot in 16mm and super 8 film. Actual archival and newsreel footage is used to contextualize the social, political and technological changes that Ruth Ellis has witnessed.

"I met Ruth at a party at a bar," says Leona McElvens in the film. "She was surrounded with a lot of women. She was dancing and people were waiting in line to dance with her."

Ruth Ellis. Photo by Catherine Crouch. Below is an early photo of Ruth and a friend.

Ruth, who lives in Detroit, loves to dance and this writer has witnessed her dance for about an hour and a half with only one short break for a soft drink—that was at age 98. Ruth does the Electric Slide and does not miss a step.

"I'm just a common ordinary person who has enjoyed life," Ruth said. "I never had a lot of money. I never had a lot of nice clothes and things but I've just been happy."

Born July 23, 1899, in Springfield, Ill., Ruth Ellis is the oldest "out" African-American lesbian known. On her 100th birthday, Ruth's phone was busy each time this writer attempted to call her.

Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100 is an hour-long documentary about the life and times of Ruth Ellis. It also explores her rich past and offers a rare opportunity to experience a century of our history as lived by one inspiring woman. By example, Ruth shows us what is possible and what can be realized if one not only lives long and ages well but also lives with pride.

Writer, producer, director Yvonne Welbon worked hard with Ellis as an on-looker as each scene was taped, often nodding in approval and smiling. Welbon's films and videos work to create a stronger media presence for African-American women. Her award-winning films have been screened on cable, public television, at universities and community centers, and in film and video festivals around the world. She has written, directed and produced *The Cinematic Jazz of Julie Dash* (1992-93), *Sisters in the Life: First Love* (1993) and several others. She has completed all work towards a doctorate in Radio/TV/Film at Northwestern University.

The film was funded in part by Chicago's own Toni Armstrong, Jr. and the Astrea National Lesbian Action Foundation.

Come view *Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100* on Aug. 28 with Ruth. I'm sure she'll still be partying.

Saturday, Aug. 28: Black Harvest Film Festival presents *Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100*, a film about an African American lesbian at the age of 100 by Yvonne Welbon, screening at 8 p.m. at the Film Center at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago with a second screening Sun, Aug. 29 at 4 p.m. Call (312) 443-3734 for details.

It happens in ***Our Community***, too.

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GURLLLology 101 thru 401

Academic Networking

by Vicky Nabors

What is it about minorities that would cause this hate-filled idiot (Benjamin Smith) to go on a shooting rampage of Blacks, Jews, and Asians over the 4th of July holiday weekend? Are we that intimidating? Well, maybe some of our mama's and grandmama's are—YOU KNOW—some of them can destroy you with their eyes alone. Or, the belt, the switch from the tree in the back yard, the pot, the back of her hand, hell, the front of her hand, and in some extreme cases the extension cord. OUCH! I know that my grandmama and mama would have straightened good ol bird-eyed Benny out years ago. He would have become an activist against ethnic violence with the quickness, passing out sweet potato pies instead of hate literature.

Being an Evanstonian, I was personally touched by the murder of Ricky Byrdsong (former Northwestern University basketball coach) by Smith. News reports gave conflicting stories portraying Smith's parents as loving, doting people who didn't condone his racist acts. Yet, these same news reports published a video interview of Smith stating that his father taught him to distrust Blacks when walking down the street, because they are four times as likely to rob you over a white person. It seems as if the media were trying to hide the racist teachings of Smith's father. But Black folks aren't fooled; we're accustomed to hidden racism and can identify it in all of its creative hiding places.

Ironically, this issue of how the media influences its viewers to accept certain views was the primary focus of my revised thesis. I revisited the 1997 Oakland Ebonics controversy. My argument was: the media are so pervasive in their personal, political, economic, aesthetic, psychological, moral, ethical, and social consequences that they leave no part of us untouched, unaffected, unaltered. For instance, what did you feel upon hearing the multitude of media reports covering the hate-crime shootings? Did you feel anger towards Smith, or sympathy for his parents? There are many emotions that these media reports could have ignited, but it was clear that the media's mission was to spare Smith's parents humiliation or ridicule from those affected by their son's actions. In the Ebonics issue the media influenced the public to reject the concept of Ebonics by resorting to partial and misleading reports on Oakland's intentions.

It was a fascinating research project and whether we call it Black English or Ebonics, the language is a part of our Black American culture and heritage. Most of us consciously switch from Black English to "talking white or proper," as some may call it, when needed. This is also called "code-switching" or "translating" from standard English to Black English. However, not every Black American can successfully do this effectively, as was the problem with the school children in Oakland California. Many Black Americans clearly understand that they must play the language game while in public to communicate more effectively. This is not just a Black thing because foreigners also go through the process of learning how to code-switch. But, for the record let me say that "ain't nothin like a good ol Black English conversation with the folks in the hood to make a gurl feel connected to her culture."

It was a difficult school year for me, but I made it. I defended my thesis today and my committee put their stamp of approval on my work, so, that ends my master's program. Thank God! I've been traumatized by this thesis project, but it was a true learning experience of endurance and dedication. I haven't had much of a social life this past school year either. But, I can't complain much since my crazy companion kept me laughing most of the time with her ludicrous antics.

Enjoy your summer away from campus and to those of you who are taking summer classes—you go gurls! Before you know it the fall semester, term, or quarter will resume and we all will have to return to the challenges of our long-term goals.

Replies to vlnabors@neiu.edu or Lambda Publications.

Going To Meet the Man Just Above My Head

by Larry Duckette

I would do my version of Tina Turner singing "Proud Mary" and at three every afternoon for two months I performed, albeit on a skeletal scale, the entire soundtrack to *Dreamgirls*. From "Step Into the Badside" to "And I'm Telling You I'm Not Going." All this to keep from going insane from boredom working at the telephone company. By Friday I'd had enough of the (real?) world.

One summer I looked forward to a Friday evening with a friend and an undecided movie. He lived in a culturally rich house with his godmother who was quite distinguished in literary society. When he answered the door there was a look of *You're gonna get it* in his eyes. He wanted me to meet someone. I walked into the parlor, rich with African artifacts, and met one person who mesmerized me. This was the first writer who changed my life with written words. With his hand extended to me, I met James Baldwin.

This man pulled no punches in print, on camera or the streets of domestic war. He was drama, so theatrical with his enormous eyes. He once said, "The Negro performer is still in battle with the White man's image of the Negro which he clings to in order not to be forced to revise his image of himself."

Sitting in a chair soaked with the glory of ancient kings, this modern day prophet was looking at *me*. If you've ever had a dream come true, you know my feeling. I was grateful that years of careful home training and some stage experience made things like composure, grace and manners automatic. Sitting, he extended his hand in the manner of a monarch. I held the instrument that wrote *Giovanni's Room, The Fire Next Time (God gave Noah the rainbow sign, no more water, fire next time), Another Country, If Beale Street Could Talk* and *Just Above My Head*.

He asked my friend and I to postpone our date to have dinner with him. I would cancel a date with Moses to *feed* Mr. Baldwin his dinner. His party consisted of a handsome traveling companion and two producers. The female half, I was told, was the former Mrs. Jimi Hendrix. She looked chic under a curly mane of auburn hair. She was in a silk blouse, faded jeans, a pair of boots that looked like they cost a thousand dollars at one time and a full-length mink coat. She looked the part of artist, producer and former wife of a rock legend.

At dinner, our table was visited by the well known and unknown. Rev. Jesse Jackson and Walter Fountroy came by to speak to Mr. Baldwin and I was introduced to them. I wondered how I could eat with my excitement. I couldn't get the grin off my face. Well, I said to myself, "Lord, help me" and ate a fine meal.

We went back to the house. My friend and I served drinks four or five times. Mr. Baldwin, who said to call him Jimmy, got a clean glass with each drink. I remember talking with (who am I fooling?), *listening* to Jimmy (there I go again), I mean, Mr. Baldwin speak of many things until the early hours of the morning. It was like going to college as a prestigious member of an honors class. I washed the glasses, slept on the carpet beside my friend and looked forward to saying good morning to a man who gave me more than he'll ever know.

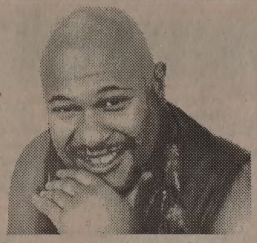
A day and a half later, I said thank you and good-bye to James Baldwin and his party. I was elated because I held the hand that wrote *Go Tell It On the Mountain, Nobody Knows My Name, Going to Meet the Man* and, yeah, *Just Above My Head*.

Leather Scene

by Cain Berlinger

Gay pride has once more attempted to pull our brethren from our closets and parade us before the world in all our Gay glory! For the longest time I have listened patiently to all the cries of racism in a white culture, yet where were the People of Color contingents? Was Onyx and the many, many POC organizations in the city present to proclaim their own sovereignty? Or were we conspicuous by our own absence? Gay pride proclaims to celebrate pride in ourselves and our heritage and all the many things that we will accomplish for the future preservation of our Gay youth. What legacy will we leave to future generations to proclaim our participation in the freedom that we share with our other Gay brothers of European, Asian, Latin descent?

In American culture, as well as in the Gay culture prior to the 1970s, the presence of People of Color in our history is almost non existent except maybe for the legendary presence of a few drag queens. In the Leather Museum and Archives there is little evidence of any Leather People of Color having even participated or even suffered under old laws that once harassed us as Gay people. If we have no history then it would be reasonable for our descendants to assume we never existed. This must change, and the sooner it changes the better, but it will not happen on the backs of a handful of activists in a handful of major cities. Our presence in society will depend on the integrity and backs of all of us who make up the gay community. We cannot forever depend on the largesse of those who champion our cause and offer us their help only so that we may kiss their hands and continue to hold out our own. As we near the new millennium, the urgency of a new beginning rings clear. There are political tools that will help get the word out to many of us who are still sheltered by society, hidden in closets, shackled through intolerant religion, and sneered at by their own people whose ignorance keeps them in bondage. The power of the Internet and publishing programs are still untapped, magazines and newsletters and organizations that will assure those who are still uncertain about where their place is in the Gay Community, have yet to do their work. When the young ones have seen themselves in the hearts and eyes of their predecessors then will they feel empowered to come forth and march besides their brothers in the next Gay pride and all the others to follow, and take their rightful place in history, a history that so many of us seem so reluctant to be a part of.



United together amongst the diverse and multi-cultured Gay ranks we can defeat the fundamentalists, the Rev. Phelps' of this world and finally present a united front that we can all take pride in, and not just the hard working but privileged few!

writercain@aol.com

Thy Cup Runneth Over

Hurrah for Affinity!

by Lynnell Stephani Long

"We are chained and shackled together by the one thing that we have in common, we are all BLACK." — Lynnell Stephani

Affinity, a group serving Chicago's Black Lesbian and Bisexual women's community, recently opened it doors to include Transgendered Women. What does that mean? It means an all-women group (Black Women) has come to accept Transgendered women as women.

On July 8, I, along with Lorraine Sade Baskerville, attended the "Lez Chat" forum, "Understanding Transgendered Lifestyles." It was the first forum to bridge the gap between Black Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered women.

The forum was meant to educate Black women about the Transgendered community, and it was a success. Although there were a few women (actually two) who thought Transgendered women are not women but rather Transgendered, the majority of the women were very accepting, and loving. It was quite a different experience for me to be in a room full of Black women, and not feel defensive. My purpose was not to defend my community, but rather accept that times are changing, and Affinity is proving it. After years of being a Trans/Intersex Activist, I was able to see a result of me being out.

I asked Robbie Smith, a board member of Affinity, why Affinity chose to open its doors to a community that's often overlooked and seldom heard? She said, "It was a part of us being inclusive —we felt like we wanted to be inclusive of everyone in the community (LesBiGayTrans Community) and that's part of what Affinity is about. Part of the reason Affinity got started was because there were no resources for Black lesbians on the South Side, so we figured we had to do it ourselves. As we grew we felt like we should not be exclusive of anyone, including Transgendered women. My personal belief is it's who you are on the inside that counts. Being Transgendered is a process of what you go through, but you all are women."

To my sista's at Affinity: Since I was a child I have fought against what people told me. They said I was a boy, but wouldn't explain my breast growth at 14. They said I should accept I am not a woman, but couldn't explain the thoughts in my mind that said differently. I have been forced to take male hormones in an effort to make me a boy. They said that I would be fine, but didn't talk about the many suicide attempts.

After I came out as Lynnell, I thought life would be easier, I was wrong. I found more acceptance from white people than I did from my own people. In my mind there was nothing wrong with me, I was a woman and that was all to it. I was awakened from that dream when I was discriminated against at a women-born-women only organization. I was awakened to a world that treated Transgendered women as aliens from another planet. I had started to lose hope that there would ever be change. Then one day I saw your ad in BLACKLINES, and smiled. At first I thought it was a misprint. A couple of days later I ran into a board member of Affinity and I asked her about your ad. She confirmed that it was indeed true, that Affinity has opened it doors to include Transgendered women. She also invited me to speak at the "Lez Chat" forum.

Thank you Affinity. Thank you for saving the life of a Transgendered youth that felt he or she had no place to call home. Thank you for accepting Transgendered women as women. Thank you for giving the Black Transgendered community hope. Thank you for giving me hope.

As we approach the millennium, I have faith that things will get better for the entire Black LesBiGayTrans Community. Affinity had the courage to do something many have talked about. I hope that other Black organizations follow.

"You can't blame me—for wanting to be mixed with the recipes for taffy, caramel, and fudge. Just like them I want a place in this luxurious decorated chocolate box, to fit." — C.C. Carter

E-mail TSReporter@aol.com; www.members.aol.com/INTERSEXx

PERSONALS

Those who have VOICE following their printed introductions have also left recorded introductions. Dial 1 (900) 454-0101.

To keep your free voice box active continuously, you need only continue checking weekly. As long as your box remains active, new respondents using the Browse option, and seeking your profile traits, will be able leave messages.

WARNINGS: 1. We no longer accept for print home phone numbers or addresses. **2.** Vice officers sometimes respond to suspect ads in an effort to uncover illegal activity. Note: sex-for-money agreements (even if no sex occurs) are illegal.

CODE: ISO = In Search Of

Men

Sexy hot top 5'9", 155#, 25 y/o, BiBM huge discreet military seeks slim/skinny bottom, any race under 37 y/o **Leo (312) 216-9101** *(9)*

Why stroke it alone: Uninhibited PGWM 30 in Lakeview seeks others into long hot mutual j/o. Exhibitionist, voyeur, nudist. Weekends, 24 hrs. **VM (312) 661-9003** *(9)*

A Good Catch. Reel me in! GWM, 37, 5'11", 180#, green eyes, brown hair & good looking. I like movies, clubs, romantic evenings and much more. Come on! Take the bait! Write if interested to **John PO Box 2081 Palatine, IL 60078-2081** *(9)*

ISO Black top 40+ extremely gentle, slow sex a/o kiss and cuddle, your place, city only. Me: white bottom 5'8" I'll satisfy you. **VM (773) 995-4091** *(8)*

Let me explain to you why it's foolish to believe in God. **Ron PO Box 2, Equality, IL 62934** *(8)*

INDPLS submissive boy, 40, 5'6", 140# seeks macho, verbal, Marlboro Red Smoking, beer drinking real man into "kick-back glory." **NL/Voice 52909** *(8)*

Seeking to find Blacks, Latinos and Whites for passionate encounters and friendship. Me: White, like being the girl. Hear greeting **Voice 52907, answer in writing NL 435** *(8)*

Steamworks, Sat. nite, May 22 & Sun a.m. Your longest B.J. Me: hotbod, big nips, deep throat. I worked on you for hours, but couldn't find you when I left. Make contact so we can do it again. **NL Box 433** *(8)*

Seeking to find Blacks, Latinos and Whites for passionate encounters and friendship. Me: White, like being the girl. **Voice 52907** *(8)*

40, Black, 190#, bottom, ISO top who is gentle and sincere. Me: work out, independent, professional, fun loving. **Voice 52831** *(8)*

Naked hung PGWM, 30, seeks others into nudity & long hot mutual j/o sessions, weekends are best, 24 hours. **VM 312 661-9003** *(8)*

Dominant SBM NYC, mature honest, atheist, strict master, sane, friendly, seeks Black/Latina submissive female 24+ to serve me. NYC nearby. (No phonies, D/D, smokers.) Maids, rollerbladers welcome! Photo, phone. **NL Box 429** *(8)*

Personals

How to place an ad:

- The first 20 words are free; each additional word is 25¢. Ads run 2 Months. ADS ARE FOR ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Groups wishing to place ads in personals can do so at CLASSIFIED rates ($10/30 words for 1 month, 3 months $27).
- In addition to your ad, send your name, address, home phone & signature.
- You will be assigned a free voice-mailbox number, unless you specify you do not want one. You can record a voice-mail message for free; retrieving messages costs $1.79 per minute. Upon receipt of your ad, we will send your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.
- You can rent BLACKLINES mailbox/$6 per month, if you wish to have written responses forwarded to you, we send them out once a week. (If you have your own PO Box, voice mail #, e-mail or beeper #, we request **$5 per 2 months.** We DO NOT accept ads with home address/phone)
- Deadline is 10th of each month for next BLACKlines. You can also run in Nightlines and Outlines and En La Vida.

How to respond to an ad:

- If an ad ends with an NL/V #, you can reply by mail or by phone to that ad (some ads will list an address + a voice-mail # in parentheses—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail).
- If ad ends with NL BOX #, you can *only* reply by mail. If it ends with Voice #, you can *only* reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).
- To respond in writing, send letter to the NL/V # or NL BOX # specified at the end of the ad, c/o **BLACKLINES, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chgo, IL 60657.** Respond to all others ads as specified at the end of the ad.
- To leave a voice-mail message ($1.79/min.), use *touchtone* phone to call **1-900-454-0101.** Punch 1 & 5-digit NL/V # or NL Voice # to respond to that ad — or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages. (773) 871-7610 ***(Tuesays 9-5 only)***

Ad should read _____

Please also run ad in (no extra money): ❒ Outlines ❒ Nightlines ❒ En La Vida
FREE voice-mail number (phone responses only)! ❒ *I Do NOT want voice box #*

PERSONALS for ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Classified rates ($10 for 1 month, 3 months $27).

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION—, MUST BE FILLED OUT:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Cost of the ad:

1st 20 words, 2 months	FREE
Additional words 25¢ ea.	$_____
MailBox # ($6 per month)	$_____
Use own PO/Beeper/VM/e-mail, $5	$_____
Total Amount Enclosed:	$_____

Send to: BLACKlines/Outlines, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

Lonely sensuous Black man 35 years old 5'6" dark hair, brown eyes, educated. Well built physique, handsome, intelligent, open minded. I enjoy sports, quiet times and intimacy. I'm devoted and passionate, am seeking that someone special for lasting relationship. **Tyrone Rahmings #066700 FSP PO Box 181 Starke, FL 32091**

WOMEN

ISO = In Search Of

This very attractive lesbian is ISO a playmate for good hot fun. She must be black or of Latin descent, fem, attractive, intelligent, have a sense of humor, drug and disease free (light smoker okay), mentally stable, independent, and active (in many ways), between 35-50, 5'1"-5'7" up to 150 #. No studs. Pager 773 226-1518 *(end date 10)*

SWF 50 butch seeking single, gay, classy, feminine, SBF/SHF 43-50 for stable, loving, respectful, honest relationship. No drugs/alcohol: healthy. If you like pampering and are willing to pamper, page me at **(312) 562-1238** *(end date 9)*

This 39 year old SBF at 110#, 5'4", attractive, independant and honest who lives on the northside of Chicago is looking for a soulmte between 27-45, who is cut to attractive. Weight proportional to height. Please no drug users. You can call me at **(312) 905-8239** *(end date 9)*

ISO a feminine single female, must be attractive, sexy, over 5', under 150#, non-smoker, between the age of 25-40, mature, intelligent, outgoing, trustworthy, honest, open for adventure and fun, but at the same time serious about life. (Myself SBF and all the above. You won't be disappointed.) Race unimportant. **Pager (312) 562-0353** *(8)*

GBF ISO GBF over 30. No smoking, drugs, drinking or studs. Stimulating conversationalist must have job. Romantic. Have own interest. **NL 262** *(9)*

Interests: yoga, meditation, drumming, picnics, Shakespearean plays, bicycling, fests, rollerblading and reading. I'm spiritual, African-American, college educated, kind, sensitive, creative, soft stud/butch, fun and positive minded. I'm 38 y/o. No smoking please. All colors welcome. **Beep (312) 358-6587** *(8)*

Is it possible to find a perfect relationship in such an imperfect world? Professional, 35 y/o, soft stud, cute, knows how to treat a womyn. Has eclectic tastes in music, arts and womyn. **Pager (773) 560-6242** *(8)*

GBF 40+ professional, playful, serious about success and in search of more out of life — would love to share a stress free, fun filled summer with employed, self assured, drug and disease free spirit(s). No bisexuals, gay experienced preferred. If you are 35-50 years young and want to live in the present and enjoy each moment to the fullest, do not hesitate write or e-mail me at **new** e-mail address: **aol.com.LOKN4JOYor NL Box 254** *(10)*

SBF over 45 n/s, open, religious, drug free, disease free. Seeking friendship leading to permanent relationship. Tired of lonely nites. ISO over 45 BF over 5'1" under 5'5" wt proportional to ht. No full figure, please no bi, bi curious or closet cases. Drug free, disease free, employed, independent. Very busy schedule but will find time for you. All calls will be answered at **(708) 849-8759** *(9)*

Sexy, passionate femme who is new to the life. ISO studs who are 24 and up who are willing to show me the ropes. I can be reached at **(773) 201-8389..I** will respond to all calls. *(8)*

Hip-hop Martha Stewart Seeks Rockin' Ass Grrl. This 26 year old blue eyed boobie goddess, tofu-eating carnivore, film and art junkie, writer, reader (who couldn't be sweeter) wants a date with wonder woman. If you're good hearted, interesting, smart and funny, let's meet. **Voice 52856** *(8)*

SBF over 45 n/s, open, religious, drug free, disease free. Seeking friendship leading to permanent relationship. Tired of lonely nites. ISO over 45 BF over 5'1" under 5'5" wt proportional to ht. No full figure, please no bi, bi curious or closet cases. Drug free, disease free, employed, independent. Very busy schedule but will find time for you. All calls will be answered at **(708) 849-8759** *(9)*

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/ Volunteer Coordinator. The Lesbian Community Cancer Project (LCCP) is seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant/ Volunteer Coordinator. Prior administrative and volunteer coordination experience necessary. Excellent writing, computer (Microsoft Word, Excel, Filemaker Pro, Quickbooks or similar software), organizational and interpersonal skills essential. Send resume and cover letter to: **LCCP, 4753 N. Broadway, Suite 602, Chicago, IL 60640. Fax 773-561-1830.** *(6/5)*

DPG, Inc. & P.H.A.T. (Plenty of Hips Ass & Tits) are hiring. This Plus Size (& Medium Build) Bi-Sexual Female Erotic Dance Group needs topless waitresses & dancers. Serious only **1-800-997-0447.** High self-eseteem. (4/99)

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PHOTOGRAPHY

BAD, BOLD, AND BLACK: For sampler set (8 men, 8 photos), send age (21+), signature, $10, to Zebra Studios, P.O. Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (Potential models welcome!). *(2/00)*

TRAVEL

GETAWAY COTTAGES in new Buffalo, Mich., 1-1/2 hours from Chicago. Near beach, restaurants, shopping. VCR/TV. 2 or 3 bedroom, fireplace, **(312) 287-2400; 1-800-44-ENVOY.** *(9/98)*

WhuzzUp this week in D.C.? Men's Event & Info Line in the Black Gay Capitol: 1-900-963-0230 ($1.95 per min). *** ALSO TRY MALEBOX

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

WE ARE A residential facility for people with AIDS, Lincoln Park location. Immediate help needed in kitchen and reception. Call for information on these and other volunteer opportunities. **Bonaventure House (773) 327-9921 ext. 124.** *(8/99)*

YOUNG MEN'S GROUP

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the 10th of each month for following month.

BLACK-LINES is seeking photo-graphers to cover community events, clubs, sports, and more.

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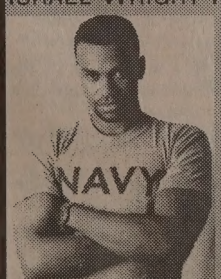

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Keep daring/sharing the strength of your words.

— Donna Rose

Dear Donna:

Thanks so much for your letter and for your comments. I will write a follow-up article on Hepatitis C so stay tuned!

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What about unprotected oral sex?

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Therefore, I don't floss, brush my teeth, or chew gum within several hours of the time I [plan to have sex]. And, I never go until "completion."

The thought of using a condom in this situation is out of the question. Since I don't have intercourse of any kind, if a condom is the only option, I would rather just masturbate or bump and grind. *— Pierre*

Dear Pierre:

Studies have shown that you are at far greater risk of HIV transmission through anal sex than through oral sex. I spoke with many who do not use a condom during oral sex. And yet there are others who always use condoms for oral sex. Either decision is perfectly reasonable—we all have to make up our own minds as to how much risk we are willing to take. You may blow 10 different guys a week in the bathhouse or bookstore, or you may be in a long-term monogamous relationship. You need to consider your own personal situation when you decide what risks you are willing to take.

You might decide to use condoms when you blow a "one-nighter" but not with your steady boyfriend. I say great! You can choose the added protection with strangers, and the added intimacy with your lover.

Whatever choice you make, make sure that it is your decision and not one left to chance! It should be made wisely and soberly. Good Luck!

Peace and Blessings, readers. Questions? Comments? By all means, just ask: PrestonMSW@aol.com

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by Sukie de la Croix

Excerpts from an interview with a 67-year-old African-American gay man

Rev Cobb ...

"I was brought up on the North Side and when I was 10 years old in 1940 my mother moved on the South Side. We were in Rev. Cobb's building, as a matter of fact it's still there, and the church is still there. Back then, this was '45 up until '50, that building had been condemned every year. We had two rooms, the toilets you couldn't flush it, and half the time there wasn't a seat on it, and to flush it you had to pour a bucket of water in it, and you could sit on the toilet and look down through the floor, the floor was all rotted. You could look down at people underneath you. You couldn't take a bath because the water was backed up, sewage in the water. And this was Rev. Cobb. The building was condemned back then and it's still standing. The reason he got popular was that most churches back then didn't accept gay people, and the whites were looking for a church; they wanted to be included in religion, some church that would accept them. So Rev. Cobb said he don't care what you is ... blah blah blah ... and that was one church, the First Church of Deliverance, where white people actually came to a Black church in a Black community.

"And Mayor Kennelly in those days was gay, so he came to Rev. Cobb's church, and he gave Rev. Cobb a certain amount of political clout with that building, because the building should have been condemned back then. He knew the Mayor. And the mayor was gay, undercover of course. I guess a lot of people knew. But back then Rev. Cobb had a big white following. Most of the people over there were gay and he'd fill the building, back when I was young, with lesbians and gay people. Certain rooms in the building were broken up, like in five rooms they might have five different families with kids, each room had a kitchenette, and if you had a bed, you put your bed in the hallway, and a refrigerator and a little sink in there, and everybody used the same bathroom. Some rooms had four or five people in it.

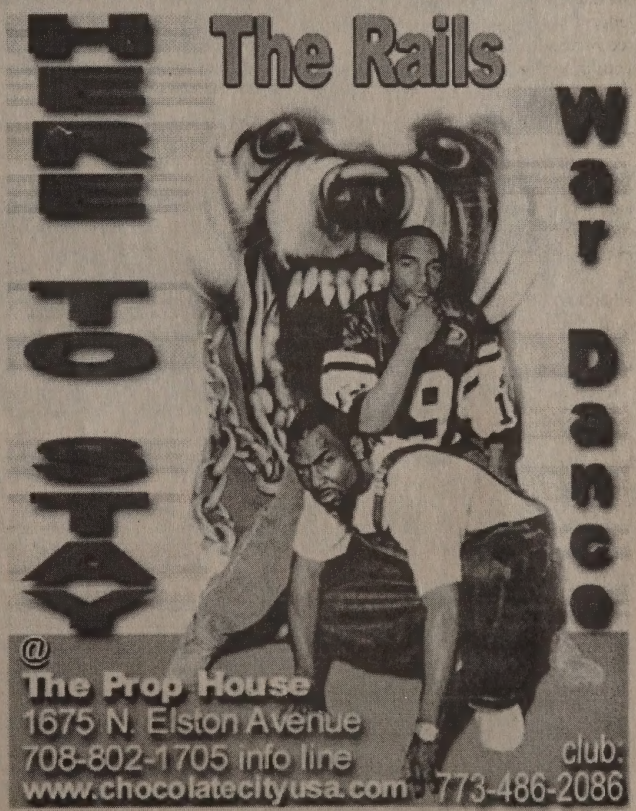
"So what would have been apartments would have about 25 people in it. Half the time you couldn't take a bath because there was no hot water and the basement would flood, and Rev. Cobb and his cohorts over there lived like kings. And I would go around there and complain, I just turn the faucet and the water would shoot up and I would go round and tell him to get someone to fix it, and he would say 'There's a bunch of niggers around there and they should get out anyway.' And he would say, 'What's your name?' ... blah blah blah ... and that's the way they would talk to you like you were dirt. He used to smoke a big cigar and he used to like to gamble. You'd see him in his big limousine coming down the street and everybody knew who he was. A Black politician.

"And L____ he ran the choir there, and L_____ has got a church now ... he's still around. He was on one of those TV 26 stations one morning. He's still around. He's gay. So L_____ worked for Rev. Cobb and he was a celebrity. In the Black neighborhoods if you had certain jobs you were a celebrity. He would be in the Kitty Kat every night after the choir turned out. L____ was really flamboyant and really feminine back in those days, I guess he's a little more calm now. The fact that he worked for Rev. Cobb, he was like a diva. He wore these fur coats."

Razors in the 1940s ...

"Back in those days on the South Side, you were called sissies, and they were respected because they all carried razors. It was a known fact that if you messed with a sissy you get your throat cut, because they all carried razors. And a lot of them looked like truck drivers and they would have cuts all over their face because they would fight. I remember when I was small we used to sit outside the bar (The 430 on 43rd St.) and peek in and they would be in there and they'd turn on the juke box and they'd have on their lipstick and stuff, with a dress and everything on and dancing in the middle of the floor. Everybody respected them because they'd cut your throat.

"But just like up in Rev. Cobb's building, like Carter he stayed upstairs and he was married, had a man as a husband, he'd call him his husband, and he'd come down and gossip with the women. In a neighborhood like that it was tolerated, because there was prostitution and everybody respected each other back in those days."



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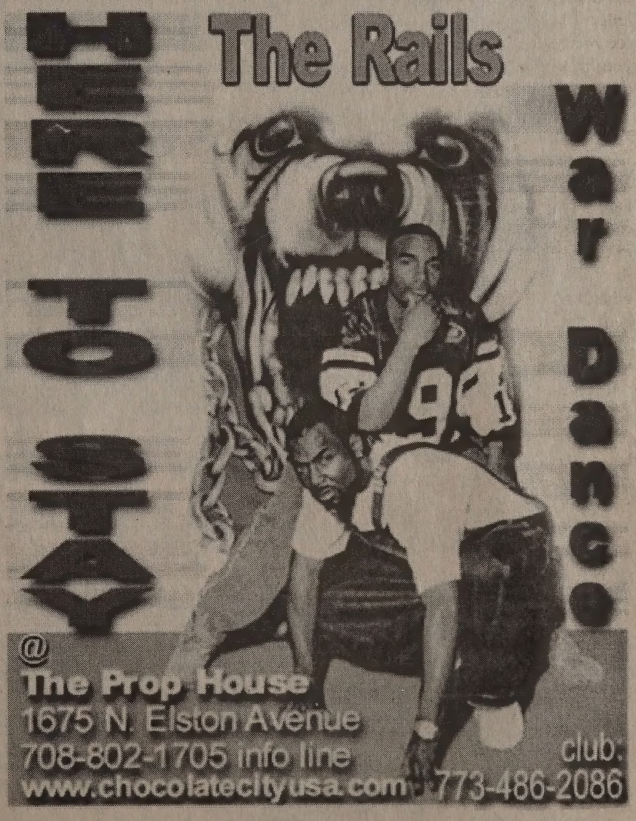
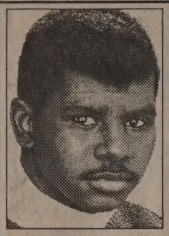




World View: World Wide Web

by Andrew Davis

The Test and the Worst

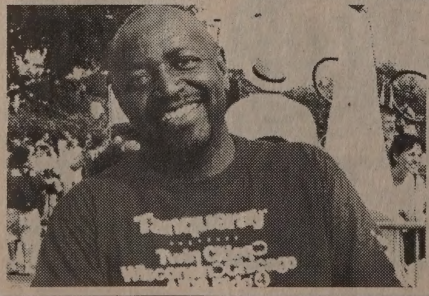
People who are testing themselves at home for HIV may want to choose an alternate means. The government has issued this warning after purchasing HIV kits over the Internet—and discovering they produced incorrect results.

Please be aware of Net advertisements for these kits. The ads falsely state that the kits were approved by various groups such as the World Health Organization or the Food and Drug Administration. However, the FDA has approved only one at-home AIDS kit—Home Access Health Corporation's Home Access Express HIV-1 Test System. The other (unapproved) home test kits claim to detect antibodies to HIV-1, the virus that causes AIDS, in blood or saliva, providing results in the home in 15 minutes or less. With the approved kit, on the other hand, people mail in a drop of blood on a card to a laboratory with a confidential and anonymous personal identification number, and later call a hot line to learn the results from a trained counselor.

As you might surmise, the unapproved kits do not come with any guarantee of the accuracy of the test or the sensitivity of the chemicals used in the testing. There's no documented history of delivering dependable results. These particular kits also fail to provide the proper training to interpret results. Then there are the ramifications that can result from getting a false positive or false negative result. Conversely, the approved kit has undergone rigorous testing in order to be approved. Clinical studies have shown that this system can correctly identify 100% of known positive blood samples and 99.5% of HIV-1 negative blood samples. In addition, the recommended kit has a built-in mechanism for counseling provided by the manufacturer. Counseling also provides info in the event you are infected and info on doctors who treat HIV-infected people in your area. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, you can be confident about your result.

▼▼▼▼▼

Contact me at gemini1@nwu.edu.



CELEBS AND AVERAGE FOLKS WERE AMONG THE 1600+ RIDERS RAISING MILLIONS FOR AIDS GROUPS IN THE ANNUAL TWIN CITIES> WISCONSIN> CHICAGO AIDS RIDE. PHOTOS AT GRANT PARK'S WELCOME HOME CEREMONIES BY ISRAEL WRIGHT AND BRIAN MCGEE

F.Y.I. Resources

Predominantly Black Gay Clubs

CLUB ESCAPE, M,W,D,1530 E. 75th St. 773-667-6454
CLUB INTA'S 308 W. Erie, Girls Night Thurs.....312-664-6595
CLUB INTIMUS (only Sat. 9p-3a)
312 W. Randolph, W,D,V.....312-901-1703
GENERATOR 306 N.Halsted, D, MW 312-243-8889
JEFFERY PUB 7041 S. Jeffrey, MW, D, 4 773-363-8555
CLUBHOUSE AT CONVENT MW,D,
1529 Armitage, ***MONDAYS*** **11p-4a** 773-395-8660
K.C. Productions at Cotton Club, Sundays.....312-341-9787
MENAGE 738 N. Clark, 2nd flr, MWS 312-932-9289
THE RAILS AT PROP HOUSE, 1675 N. Elston,
MW,D, TheRails@aol.com.....708-802-1705
THE VIX: A Jazz Supperclub, 2814 N. Halsted
MW,D,R,GS 773-529-3999

OTHER Clubs OF INTEREST

BERLIN 954 Belmont, MW, V, 4, S 773-348-4975
BIG CHICKS 5024 N. Sheridan,S/G,WM,11a-2a/3a Sa 773-728-5511
BUDDIES' REST./BAR 3301 Clark, MW, R.....773-477-4066
CHICAGO EAGLE, M,L. 5015 N. Clark 773-728-0050
CLUB INTA'S 308 W. Erie, Women Thurs., Men Sun. ..312-664-6595
CIRCUIT 3641 N. Halsted, Salsa, etc. 773-325-2233
GIRLBAR, 2625 N. Halsted, W,D 773-871-4210
LITTLE JIM'S 3501 N. Halsted, M, 4 773-871-6116
MAN'S COUNTRY 5017 N. Clark, M, B 773-878-2069
MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE 312-409-0276
ROSCOE'S 3354-6 N. Halsted, MW, D, V, E, Cafe773-281-3355
SIDETRACK 3349 N. Halsted, M, V.....773-477-9189
SPIN, Halsted & Belmont, MW, D 773-327-7711
TEMPTATIONS 10235 W. Grand, Franklin Park, W, D,V, E, 4,
(5a Fri/Sat).....847-455-0008

Resources

AA/Newtown Alano Club 773-529-0321
Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays 773-493-3848
Adodi African-American men 312-458-9584
Affinity, creating a South Side community center
P.O. Box 496002, Chicago, IL 60649.....312-409-7609
African American Womyn's Alliance.....773-731-0279
A Real Read—African-American LesbigayTrans Performers
www.uic.edu/orgs/arealread.....312-409-2457
BLACKLINES, Lambda Pub./OUTLINES
1115 W. Belmont,#2-D, 60657 (FAX773-871-7609) 773-871-7610
Brother 2 Brother Chicago BRO2BROCHI@aol.com
P.O. Box 496024. Chicago 60649
BROTHERS C.A.N. (Community Awareness Network)
Programming 773-752-7867
Brothers United Together HIV+ men/Afric Descent...773-752-7867
Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays,
P.O. Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181.....312-409-4917
Chicago Black Pride 773-288-2078
chicagoblackpride@yahoo.com
Lakeside Pride Freedom Band 773-381-6693
Church of the Open Door FAX (773) 778-0178 ..773-778-3030
Black lesbigay/trans/heterosexual Church, 5954 S. Albany
The Committee, 2300 N. Clybourn, #32, 60614 773-235-0295
GAMBA: Discussion for men of African Descent ..773-752-7867
Greater Chicago Committee, P.O. Box 146642, 60614-6642
Healthline 312-661-9153, prevent.773-674-0429 312-670-9660
Harambe Jahard Suburban Afric.-Amer. Bi/GayMen 708-445-2584
Horizons Community Services 773-929-HELP
Howard Brown Health Center 773-388-1600
Imani Umoja, Chicago Afric.-Amer Bi/Gay men....773-907-8993
Last House on the Block G&L in recovery 773-373-0024
Lesbian Community Cancer Project 773-561-4662
Les Femmes Amies.....312-232-0787
Men of All Colors Together/Chicago,PO Box
408922, 60640-8922 312-409-6916
Minority Outreach Intervention Proj, FAX 312-986-0928
1255 S. Wabash, Suite 2-S, 60605 312-986-0661
National Black L&G Leadership Forum.....202-483-6786
Onyx/Chicago leather/men, 1340 Irving, #188, 60613
PAC Social Club, PACSOCIALC@aol.com
Phrasority *parties for all lesbians and gays*.....312-409-6637
Roseland Community Hospital 773-995-6469
Stop AIDS/African American Program
1718 E. 75th St., 60649 773-752-7867
Test Positive Aware/Brothers United in Support ..773-404-8726
Toussaintian Brothers of Illinois.....847-625-7263
TransGenesis trans support.....800-805-4052
United Faith Affinitas, Black L/G/Bi, 1448 E. 53rd .773-878-7839
Women of All Colors Together 773-267-0976, (708) 869-9120

Latex condoms with water-based lubricants help stop the spread of STD (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) including HIV, the virus that causes AIDS

Let's Face it Together!

Call your nearby Chicago Department of Public Health Clinic about

FREE COUNSELING, TESTING, TREATMENT, REFERRALS, PREVENTION PLANS, MALE AND FEMALE CONDOMS

1-800-AID-AIDS

STATE OF ILLINOIS AIDS HIV & STD HOTLINE. TDD: 1-800-782-0423

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If you'd like information on HIV, AIDS, or sexually transmitted disease prevention, treatment or support services, call 1-800-AID-AIDS. To receive a taped copy of any program, call HIV Talk Radio Project at 312-541-Talk.

Listen real-time on the Internet at

www.audiozoo.com
Sundays at 12:30 pm Central

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